

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

In Re: TAXOTERE (DOCETAXEL)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL NO. 2740

SECTION "H" (5)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO  
ALL CASES

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE PLAINTIFFS'  
THIRD AMENDED MASTER LONG-FORM COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

NOW INTO COURT come Plaintiffs, through the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC"), who respectfully seek leave of Court to file Plaintiffs' Third Amended Master Long-Form Complaint and Jury Demand ("Long-Form Complaint"). Plaintiffs' proposed pleading is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The proposed pleading does not add any new parties or causes of action. Rather, it provides more details about the actions and inactions that form the bases of already-existing causes of action, as learned through discovery.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant their motion for leave to file their proposed amended pleading.

Dated: October 8, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 8, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court by using the CM/ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record who are CM/ECF participants.

/s/ M. Palmer Lambert  
M. PALMER LAMBERT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

In Re: TAXOTERE (DOCETAXEL)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL NO. 2740

SECTION “H” (5)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO  
ALL CASES

**PLAINTIFFS’ MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF THEIR**  
**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE PLAINTIFFS’**  
**THIRD AMENDED MASTER LONG-FORM COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiffs, through the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee (“PSC”), seek leave to file Plaintiffs’ Third Amended Master Long-Form Complaint and Jury Demand (“Long-Form Complaint”).<sup>1</sup> The proposed pleading does not add any new parties or causes of action; it instead provides more details about the actions and inactions that form the bases of already-existing causes of action, as learned through discovery. For example:

- The Long-Form Complaint describes in more detail the alleged deficiencies of the study supporting initial approval of Taxotere.<sup>2</sup>
- The Long-Form Complaint describes in more detail the condition of Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia.<sup>3</sup>
- The Long-Form Complaint describes in more detail the actions and inactions of Defendants that is alleged to have caused harm to the plaintiffs in this litigation in regard to the allegations of fraudulent concealment, including but not limited to Sanofi’s marketing efforts.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed pleading is attached as Exhibit 1.

<sup>2</sup> See Exhibit 1 at ¶¶ 125-126.

<sup>3</sup> See *id.* at ¶¶ 196-202.

<sup>4</sup> See *id.* at ¶¶ 133-143, 166-171, 235-244.

The amended pleading is not designed to raise new causes of action. Rather, it is designed to remove any doubt about the potential allegations involved in this litigation, which is especially important here, given the future bellwether trials and the fact that Plaintiffs are adopting a complaint that has not been updated to reflect discovery in this matter. Moreover, the reorganized, reworded, and/or new allegations in the Long-Form Complaint have been otherwise covered by more general language included in previous pleadings, or at a minimum addressed – through briefs, arguments, trials, or combinations of all three – at some stage in the proceedings. Defendants have been aware of each and every one of these allegations, and have taken efforts to defend against them, so there can be no genuine claim of unfair surprise or prejudice.

## **II. ARGUMENT**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a), “[t]he court should freely give leave when justice so requires.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). Indeed, the Fifth Circuit has interpreted this rule as evincing “a bias in favor of granting leave to amend.” *Lyn-Lea Travel Corp. v. Am. Airlines*, 283 F.3d 282, 286 (5th Cir. 2002) (quoting *Chitimacha Tribe of La. v. Harry L. Laws Co., Inc.*, 690 F.2d 1157, 1162 (5th Cir. 1982)). While decisions concerning leave to amend are at the sound discretion of the district court, the court must possess a “substantial reason” to deny such a request. *Id.*; *Quintanilla v. Tex. Television, Inc.*, 139 F.3d 494, 499 (5th Cir.1998).

The Fifth Circuit adopts a five-factor test, as outlined by the Supreme Court, in determining whether to grant a party leave to amend a complaint: 1) undue delay, 2) bad faith or dilatory motive, 3) repeated failure to cure deficiencies by previous amendments, 4) undue prejudice to the opposing party, and 5) futility of the amendment. *See Rosenzweig v. Azurix Corp.*, 332 F.3d 854, 864 (5th Cir. 2003) (citing *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962)). Absent any of these factors,

the leave sought should be “freely given.” *Id.* In the instant case, none of these factors are applicable, and as such, the amended pleading should be allowed.

Indeed, it would be an abuse of discretion to refuse to allow amendments such as those involved in this case, which do not raise a new cause of action, are not derived out of bad faith, and would not result in unfair surprise or prejudice to Defendants. For example, in *Dueling*, the Fifth Circuit reversed the trial court’s denial of Plaintiffs’ request for leave to amend, finding that the amendments posed no serious prejudice to the opponent and that delay alone is an insufficient basis for denial of leave to amend. *See Dueling v. Devon Energy Corp.*, 623 Fed. Appx. 127, 130 (5th Cir. 2015) (unpublished). Similarly, in *Dussouy*, the Fifth Circuit reversed the district court’s denial of leave to amend because the new facts had been known to the defendants and would not have caused unfair surprise or prejudice, despite the plaintiff moving to amend one week prior to trial. *See Dussouy v. Gulf Coast Inv. Corp.*, 660 F.2d 594, 598-99 (5th Cir. 1981).

As stated above, the proposed pleading does not add any new parties or causes of action, but merely provide more specific allegations supporting the same theories of recovery of which Defendants already are aware. Thus, there is no unfair surprise or prejudice posed to Defendants, there is no undue delay, and there is no bad faith on the part of Plaintiffs. Amendments such as these should be liberally allowed under the Federal Rules, and since there are no factors applicable to justify a denial for leave, the court should allow leave to amend in the instant case.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

For these reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant their motion for leave to file their proposed amended pleading.

Dated: October 8, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 8, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court by using the CM/ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record who are CM/ECF participants.

/s/ M. Palmer Lambert

M. PALMER LAMBERT

## **EXHIBIT 1**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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IN RE: TAXOTERE (DOCETAXEL)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

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:  
: MDL NO. 2740

:  
: SECTION “H” (5)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL  
CASES

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: HON. JANE TRICHE MILAZZO  
:  
:

**THIRD AMENDED MASTER LONG FORM COMPLAINT  
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL  
(PARTIALLY REDACTED)**

1. COME NOW, Plaintiffs, through the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee, who submit this Third Amended Master Long Form Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial (“Third Amended Master Complaint”). This Third Amended Master Complaint sets forth common allegations of Plaintiffs who were injured as a result of their exposure to brand-name drug products Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docetaxel Injection that were approved under Section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”). These brand-name drug sponsors, manufacturers, labelers, and distributors are Defendants Sanofi S.A., Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi US Services Inc., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC, Sandoz Inc., Accord Healthcare, Inc., McKesson Corporation d/b/a McKesson Packaging (“McKesson”), Hospira Worldwide, LLC f/k/a Hospira Worldwide, Inc., Hospira, Inc., Sun Pharma Global FZE, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc. f/k/a Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories Ltd., Pfizer Inc., Actavis LLC f/k/a Actavis Inc., Actavis Pharma, Inc., and Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (collectively “Defendants”) for damages and such other relief deemed just and proper.

2. This Third Amended Master Complaint is intended to achieve efficiency and economy by presenting certain common allegations and common questions of fact and law that generally pertain

to Plaintiffs adopting this Complaint. Plaintiffs plead all Counts of this Third Amended Master Complaint and Jury Demand in the broadest sense, pursuant to all applicable laws and pursuant to choice of law principles, including the law of the each Plaintiff's home state.

3. This Third Amended Master Complaint does not necessarily include all claims asserted in all the transferred actions to this Court. It is anticipated that individual Plaintiffs will adopt this Third Amended Master Complaint and selected causes of action herein through the use of a separate Short Form Complaint. Any individual facts, jurisdictional allegations, additional legal claims and/or requests for relief of individual Plaintiffs may be set forth as necessary in the Short Form Complaint filed by the respective Plaintiffs. This Third Amended Master Complaint does not constitute a waiver or dismissal of any claims asserted in those individual actions, and no Plaintiff relinquishes the right to amend his or her individual claims to include additional claims as discovery and trials proceed.

### **INTRODUCTION**

4. Taxotere is a chemotherapy drug administered to many who suffer primarily from breast cancer. Brand-name drug sponsors, manufacturers, labelers, and distributors of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, have known for years that these drugs cause permanent hair loss by preventing the regrowth of hair, a now well-documented side effect that for years has been publicized in numerous scientific studies, articles, and presentations. Despite this, these brand- name entities failed to warn patients and healthcare providers of the risk of permanent hair loss and report this risk to the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"). Instead, Defendants hid this devastating side effect.

5. Plaintiffs are women who were diagnosed with breast cancer, underwent chemotherapy using Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and/or Docefrez, and now suffer from permanent hair loss, a side effect for which they were not warned and were wholly unprepared. Had Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers known that permanent

hair loss could result, they would have selected a different treatment option—effective alternatives to these drugs that do not lead to this devastating side effect are used regularly.

6. As a result of this undisclosed side effect, Plaintiffs have struggled to return to normalcy, even after surviving cancer because an integral element of their identities, their hair, never returned. Plaintiffs are stigmatized with the universal cancer signifier—baldness—long after they underwent cancer treatment, and their hair loss acts as a permanent reminder that they are cancer victims. This permanent change has altered Plaintiffs’ self-image, negatively impacted their relationships, and others’ perceptions of them, leading to social isolation and depression even long after fighting cancer.

7. Defendants failed, and some still fail, to adequately warn that permanent or irreversible hair loss is a common side effect of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, and Plaintiffs have been unable to weigh this devastating possibility when deciding among treatment options. Plaintiffs seek recovery for their mental and physical suffering stemming from permanent or irreversible hair loss.

## **THE PARTIES**

### **A. Plaintiffs**

8. This Third Amended Master Complaint is filed on behalf of all Individual Injured Plaintiffs (“Plaintiffs”) whose claims are subsumed within MDL No. 2740. Plaintiffs in these individual actions have suffered personal injuries as a result of the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez. In addition, and where applicable, this Third Amended Master Complaint is also filed on behalf of Plaintiffs’ spouses, children, parents, decedents, wards and/or heirs, all represented by Plaintiffs’ counsel.

9. Plaintiffs have suffered personal injuries as a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ conduct and misconduct as described herein and in connection with the design,

development, manufacture, testing, packaging, promotion, advertising, marketing, distribution, labeling, warning, and sale of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez.

10. Plaintiffs could not, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, have discovered that their usage of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez resulted in their injuries. In fact, Defendants have yet to acknowledge that these drugs permanently prevent hair regrowth, and Plaintiffs did not suspect, nor did they have reason to suspect that these drugs prevented hair regrowth or the tortious nature of the conduct causing their injuries until a date prior to the filing of these actions, which is less than the applicable limitations period for filing suit.

11. Additionally, Plaintiffs were prevented from discovering this information at an earlier date because: (1) Defendants misrepresented to the public and the medical profession that Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, are free from permanent side effects; (2) Defendants failed to disclose to the public and the medical profession their knowledge of the risk that these drugs could permanently prevent hair regrowth; and (3) Defendants fraudulently concealed facts and information that could have led Plaintiffs to discover the liability of the Defendants.

#### **B. Sanofi-Related Entities**

12. Defendant Sanofi S.A. f/k/a Sanofi Aventis S.A. is the owner and operator of a multinational vertically integrated pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of France with a principal place of business at 54 Rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris, France. Sanofi S.A. formed in 2004 after Sanofi-Synthelabo acquired Aventis Group, including subsidiary Defendant Aventis Pharma, S.A. Sanofi S.A. is engaged in research and development, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing of prescription drugs, including Taxotere. American Depositary Receipts for Sanofi SA are traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

It is the only publicly traded company among the various Sanofi entities named as defendants in the case.

13. Defendant Aventis Pharma S.A. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of France with a principal place of business at 20 Avenue Raymond Aron, 92160 Antony, France. Aventis Pharma S.A. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Sanofi S.A. Defendant Aventis Pharma S.A. is the owner/holder of the patents for Taxotere. Aventis Pharma S.A. previously sought to protect Taxotere patents by filing an action for patent infringement in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware and availing itself of United States law.

14. Upon information and belief, at the direction of Sanofi S.A., Defendant Aventis Pharma S.A. licensed the patents for Taxotere to Defendants Sanofi US Services Inc. and Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC.

15. Defendant Sanofi US Services Inc. f/k/a Sanofi-Aventis U.S. Inc. is a Delaware corporation, with a principal place of business at 55 Corporate Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807. Sanofi US Services Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Sanofi S.A. Defendant Sanofi US Services Inc. engages in research and development, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing of prescription drugs, including Taxotere.

16. Defendant Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC is a Delaware limited liability company, with a principal place of business at 55 Corporate Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807. Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Sanofi S.A., and Sanofi S.A. is Sanofi-Aventis U.S., LLC's sole member. Defendant Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC engages in research and development, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing of prescription drugs, including Taxotere.

17. Defendant Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC d/b/a Winthrop U.S. operates, promotes, markets, sells, distributes generic pharmaceutical products under the name of Winthrop U.S., which is a

business unit and/or division operating within and part of Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC.

18. Since 2006, Defendants Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc. have collectively served as the U.S. operational front for Defendant Sanofi S.A. in the U.S. prescription drug market. Prior to 2006, Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. served as the U.S. operational front for Defendant Sanofi S.A. in the U.S. prescription drug market until Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. merged with Sanofi S.A.

19. Defendant Sanofi S.A. is the alter ego of wholly owned subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi US Services Inc., and Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC; Defendant Sanofi S.A. is using these named subsidiary Defendants as its agents; and/or Defendant Sanofi S.A. and the named subsidiary Defendants are one single integrated enterprise.

20. Defendant Sanofi S.A.'s Executive Vice-President of Pharmaceutical Operations in 2004, Hanspeter Spek, publicly stated in Sanofi S.A.'s Annual Report that the company was committed to growing its international presence by focusing on the United States, noting that "no pharmaceutical firm can call itself international unless it has achieved success and made its mark [in the United States]."

21. According to Mr. Spek, Defendant Sanofi S.A. was well-suited to handle the complexities of the U.S. pharmaceutical market, explaining:

When you look at current trends in the U.S., you see a form of regionalization between different states beginning to emerge. That's a sign that the U.S. market is also becoming more complex in response to the country's economic constraints, pressure on prices, and so on. These are factors that we know and are used to dealing with; we have the experience and the knowhow to cope with them in all serenity.

22. In fact, Defendant Sanofi S.A. has provided the financial resources and human capital, installing "a management team made up of a perfect mix of U.S. and European talents" and controlling the operations of subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc. by providing financing, Sanofi S.A.'s unique manufacturing "know-how," direction



of sales force, and management of operational risks to subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc.

23. Defendant Sanofi S.A. represents itself as a global company with over 110,000 employees in more than 100 countries, including approximately 17,000 employees in the United States. Sanofi S.A. touts a global sales force of tens of thousands of representatives, noting that these sales representatives, including those in the United States, “embody the [Sanofi] Group’s values on a day-to-day basis.”

24. In addition, Defendant Sanofi S.A. manages the cash surpluses of subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc., including controlling and transferring equity holdings among Sanofi S.A.’s subsidiaries. Sanofi S.A. includes the earnings of its subsidiaries in its annual reports, noting that 36.2% of its annual sales come from the United States.

25. Sanofi S.A. also represents that it has 17 manufacturing sites, 2 development centers, and 8 distribution hubs in the United States, located in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Washington, and Washington, D.C.

26. Furthermore, Defendant Sanofi S.A. formulates and coordinates the global strategy for Sanofi business and maintains central corporate policies regarding Sanofi subsidiaries, including subsidiary Defendants named herein, under the general guidance of the Sanofi group control. For example, Sanofi S.A. has a corporate tax policy overseen by Sanofi S.A.’s Tax Department.

27. Employees of Sanofi S.A. and its subsidiaries maintain reporting relationships that are not defined by legal, corporate relationships, but in fact cross corporate lines. For example, the U.S. heads of Human Resources, Communications, and Public Affairs are not affiliated with any specific U.S. subsidiary but serve as heads of Sanofi’s North American organizations, overseeing strategies

and activities for the entire North American region. For Human Resources specifically, Defendant Sanofi S.A. has adopted the “One Sanofi, One HR” concept to harmonize and align human resources practices across of Sanofi S.A.’s business activities, blurring corporate lines. In 2013, Sanofi S.A. launched the Short Term Work Assignment Program (“SWAP”), an employee exchange program that features six-month job exchanges between Sanofi employees in mature and emerging markets.

28. Defendant Sanofi S.A. has a number of policies for employee benefits and salaries that cross corporate lines. In 2001, Sanofi launched the “essential protection” project. This project provided all employees, across corporate lines, with coverage against unexpected events: illness, death benefit, and short and long term disability. This project also provided for compulsory pensions for all employees. Sanofi S.A. also has a compensation policy that all Sanofi subsidiaries have to follow. This policy aims to offer all employees in all subsidiaries compensation that is superior to the average salary for the pharmaceutical market. Each subsidiary’s employee benefits and salary program is subject to a preliminary approval procedure by Sanofi S.A. This means that Sanofi S.A. dictates the salary levels and benefits that must be paid to employees of its subsidiaries. Defendant Sanofi S.A. also controls research and development activities for Defendants Sanofi- Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc. by defining priorities, coordinating work, and obtaining the industrial property rights under Sanofi S.A.’s name and at Sanofi S.A.’s own expense. As mentioned above, Sanofi has a global Research & Development organization that works closely with Sanofi’s Senior Leadership Team.

29. On November 6, 2015, Sanofi S.A. CEO Oliver Brandicourt presented a “strategic roadmap,” a plan to restructure the company and simplify the organizational structure. Before the restructuring, Research & Development, Industrial Affairs, Finance, Human Resources, Business Development & Strategy, External Affairs, Information Systems, Medical, Legal, Compliance, & Procurement were globalized functions. After the restructuring, Sanofi S.A. introduced plans to move further to a Global Business Unit organization and divide its products into five globalized units:

Diabetes and Cardiovascular, General Medicines and Emerging Markets, Specialty Care, Vaccines, and Animal Health. The restructuring additionally included plans to reshape Sanofi’s global network of manufacturing plants. As a result of the restructuring Sanofi S.A. announced it would be cutting about 20 percent of its U.S. staff from its diabetes and cardiovascular unit alone with more U.S. staff cuts likely to come in the future.

30. Defendants Sanofi S.A. and Aventis Pharma S.A., through Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc., marketed Taxotere throughout the United States by providing marketing information regarding Taxotere to health care providers and similarly soliciting purchases for the drug.

31. Defendants Sanofi S.A. and Aventis Pharma S.A. expected that Taxotere would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States. In fact, Defendants Sanofi S.A. and Aventis Pharma S.A., through Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc., distributed and sold Taxotere to healthcare providers and patients throughout the United States.

**C. Other Brand Name Drug Sponsors, Manufacturers, Labelers, and Distributors**

32. In addition to the Sanofi-related entities, other brand-name entities obtained approval to market new drugs with the proprietary names Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate. Their new drug applications were approved under Section 505(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”), codified at 21 U.S.C. § 355(b)(2).

33. A 505(b)(2) application is a subset of NDA, and it is subject to the NDA approval requirements set out in section 505(b) and (c) of the FDCA. As such, it must satisfy the requirements for safety and effectiveness information.

34. A 505(b)(2) application contains full reports of investigations of safety and effectiveness, where at least some of the information required for approval comes from studies not conducted by or for the applicant and for which the applicant has not obtained a right of reference.

35. Accordingly, a 505(b)(2) applicant may rely on the findings of safety and effectiveness of a listed drug to the extent the new product seeking approval and the listed drug are the same. Otherwise, to the extent the products are different, a 505(b)(2) application, like a 505(b)(1) application, must include sufficient data to demonstrate that the product with those different aspects meets the statutory approval standard for safety and effectiveness.

36. A drug approved under the 505(b)(2) approval pathway is not a generic copy of a brand-name drug. Section 505(b)(2) is not an appropriate approval pathway for an application for a duplicate drug eligible for approval under section 505(j) of the FDCA (the Abbreviated New Drug Application process).

**1. Sandoz**

37. Defendant Sandoz Inc. (“Sandoz”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado with a principal place of business at 100 College Road West, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

38. Defendant Sandoz has transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

39. Defendant Sandoz has derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

40. At all relevant times, Defendant Sandoz has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under New Drug Application (“NDA”) #201525.

41. The proprietary name for Defendant Sandoz’s branded drug is Docetaxel Injection.

42. Defendant Sandoz expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

43. Defendant Sandoz filed NDA application #201525 on September 16, 2010, under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness

for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

44. Sandoz’s formulation of Docetaxel Injection, however, is different from Taxotere in that it contains less polysorbate 80 and more 96 percent ethanol. Also, it contains polyethylene glycol 300 as a solubizer and anhydrous citric acid for pH adjustment.

45. Sandoz received FDA approval for NDA #201525 on June 29, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States on August 15, 2011.

46. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection” is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

47. Since approval, Sandoz has submitted multiple Changes Being Effectuated Supplemental New Drug Applications (“CBE sNDA”) to update labeling. It submitted a CBE sNDA (S-002) on July 29, 2011 that was approved on March 15, 2012, and a CBE sNDA (S-003) on August 15, 2013 that was approved on April 23, 2014. Neither submission, however, updated labeling concerning hair loss.

48. On October 21, 2016, the FDA approved Sandoz’s CBE sNDA, submitted on March 7, 2016, “to include information on permanent or irreversible alopecia to Section 6.2 (Post- marketing Experience), Section 17 (Patient Counseling Information) of the Package Insert, and the Patient Package Insert (PPI) labeling.”

49. As of December 2015, under “Post-Marketing Experiences,” the labeling states: “Cases of permanent alopecia have been reported.” Its Patient Counseling Information states that “side effects such as [...] hair loss (cases of permanent hair loss have been reported) are associated with docetaxel administration.” Its patient information also states that the “most common side effects” include “hair loss, in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed.”

50. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss, however, in the Warnings and Precautions or Adverse Reactions portions of its labeling.

## 2. *Accord Healthcare & McKesson*

51. Defendant Accord Healthcare, Inc. (“Accord”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina with a principal place of business at 1009 Slater Road, Suite 210-B, Durham, North Carolina 27703.

52. Defendant McKesson Corporation d/b/a McKesson Packaging (“McKesson”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at One Post Street, San Francisco, California 94104.

53. Defendants Accord and McKesson have transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

54. Defendants Accord and McKesson have derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

55. At all relevant times, Defendant Accord has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #201195. Defendant Accord expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

56. At all relevant times, Defendant McKesson has been in the business of packaging and distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #201195. Defendant McKesson expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

57. Defendant Accord filed NDA #201195 on December 7, 2010, under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

58. Accord’s two-vial formulation, however, was different from Taxotere’s two-vial formulation in that it added new excipients citric acid (as a pH adjusting agent) and polyethylene glycol (PEG 400) (added to the diluent vial at 13 percent w/v). A one-vial formulation by Accord was later added in the same concentration and doses as the one-vial Taxotere, with the addition of a 160 mg / 8 mL “multiple dose” form.

59. Accord received FDA approval for NDA #201195 on June 8, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States on August 15, 2011.

60. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection” is “hair loss.” Neither statement refers to permanent hair loss.

61. On November 14, 2013, Accord submitted a CBE sNDA (S-006) that was unrelated to hair loss. It was approved on July 3, 2014. Prior to that, Accord had also submitted a Manufacturing sNDA (S-004) that, upon information and belief, resulted in various labeling changes on or before April 5, 2013, which did not relate to hair loss.

62. Accord submitted a CBE sNDA (S-009) that was approved on July 26, 2016. As a result, the current label states that “[c]ases of permanent alopecia have been reported.” Patient Counseling Information directs: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss (cases of permanent hair loss have been reported) are associated with docetaxel administration.” The Patient Information section now reads, in part: “The most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection include [...] hair loss, in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known), permanent hair loss has been observed.”

63. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss, however, in the Warnings and Precautions or Adverse Reactions portions of its labeling.

### 3. *Hospira Entities*

64. Defendant Hospira, Inc. is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 275 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

65. Defendant Hospira Worldwide, LLC f/k/a Hospira Worldwide, Inc. is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 275 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

66. Defendants Hospira, Inc. and Hospira Worldwide, LLC f/k/a Hospira Worldwide, Inc. (collectively “Hospira”) have transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

67. Hospira has derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

68. At all relevant times, Hospira has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #022234. Hospira expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

69. Hospira filed NDA #022234 on July 11, 2007 under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

70. Hospira’s formulation, however, is different from Taxotere’s formulation in several ways. First, upon the filing of its NDA in 2007, its pre-mixed, one-vial solution differed from Taxotere’s original two-vial formulation, which required initial dilution. (Taxotere’s one-vial, “ready-to-use” formulation was not FDA approved until 2010.) Second, it is packaged at a concentration of 10 mg / mL, which is one-fourth of the strength of two-vial Taxotere and one-half the strength of one-vial Taxotere. Third, Hospira’s 10 mg / mL formulation was marketed in a 160 mg vial, in



addition to 20 mg and 80 mg vials. Fourth, whereas Taxotere labels all its dosage forms as “single-use,” Hospira’s 80 mg and 160 mg formulations are marketed as “multi-use.” Fifth, unlike Taxotere, Hospira’s Docetaxel Injection contains both citric acid and polyethylene glycol 300.

71. Hospira received FDA approval for NDA #022234 on March 8, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States on March 17, 2011.

72. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection” is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

73. On September 11, 2013, Hospira submitted a “Prior Approval” sNDA (S-003) adding certain indications consistent with Taxotere’s package insert at the time. Hospira also included in this sNDA new safety information concerning ethanol intoxication, which the FDA had requested Hospira add by letter of April 21, 2014. The FDA approved this sNDA on July 10, 2014. This update, the most recent revision, did not concern hair loss.

74. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss in its labeling.

#### ***4. Sun Pharma Entities***

75. Defendant Sun Pharma Global FZE (“Sun Pharma Global”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the Emirate of Sharjah with a principal place of business at Executive Suite #43, Block &, SAIF Zone, P.O. Box 122304, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

76. Defendant Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc. f/k/a Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd. (“Sun Pharma”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of New Jersey with a principal mailing address of 270 Prospect Plains Road Cranbury, NJ 08512 United States.

77. Defendants Sun Pharma Global has transacted and conducted business throughout the United States, on its own behalf and through its agent and distributor Defendant Sun Pharma

78. Defendants Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma have derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

79. At all relevant times, Defendants Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma have been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docefrez, approved by the FDA under NDA #022534. Defendants Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma expected that Docefrez would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

80. Defendant Sun Pharma Global filed NDA #022534 on April 23, 2009 under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA's findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

81. Sun Pharma Global's two-vial docetaxel formulation, however, is different from Taxotere's two-vial formulation for several reasons. First, as opposed to Taxotere's active ingredient vial, which solution is viscous, Sun Pharma Global's active ingredient vial contains a powder. Second, and relatedly, Sun Pharma Global's polysorbate 80 is found in the diluent vial. Third, Sun Pharma Global's diluent vial contains a higher percentage of ethanol (35.4 percent) than Taxotere's (13 percent). Fourth, Sun Pharma Global's concentration is two times that of the two-vial Taxotere.

82. Sun Pharma Global received FDA approval for NDA #022534 on May 3, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States in May 2011.

83. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: "Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration." It also stated that one of the "most common side effects of" the drug is "hair loss."

Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

84. Sun Pharma Global submitted, through its agent Sun Pharma, a CBE sNDA (S-002) to the FDA on July 28, 2011, for a label change that was approved on July 13, 2012. It also submitted a “Prior Approval” sNDA (S-004) for a label change through its agent Sun Pharma on May 22, 2014, which was approved on October 30, 2014. Neither change related to hair loss.

85. Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma ceased marketing Docefrez in November 2015, and at no time has the labeling for Docefrez referred to permanent or irreversible hair loss.

### ***5. Pfizer***

86. Defendant Pfizer Inc. (“Pfizer”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 235 E 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017.

87. Defendant Pfizer has transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

88. Defendant Pfizer has derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

89. At all relevant times, Pfizer has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #202356. Pfizer expected that its Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

90. Pfizer filed NDA #202356 on September 13, 2013, under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

91. Pfizer’s one-vial formulation, however, was different from Taxotere’s one-vial formulation in that it added 130 mg / 13 mL and 200 mg / 20 mL dosage forms. Further, ethanol and propylene glycol were added as excipients in amounts greater than in Taxotere.

92. Pfizer received FDA approval for NDA #202356 on March 13, 2014 and began marketing the drug in the United States on June 23, 2014.

93. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of” the drug is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

94. Pfizer stopped marketing the 200 mg / 20 mL dosing of its Docetaxel Injection on October 31, 2016. In addition, Pfizer stopped marketing the 20 mg / 2 mL dosing and the 80 mg / 8 L dosing of its Docetaxel Injection on December 31, 2016.

95. Upon information and belief, Pfizer continues to market that 130 mg / 13 mL dosing of its Docetaxel Injection.

96. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss in its labeling.

## **6. Actavis Entities**

97. Defendant Actavis Inc., now known as Actavis LLC, is a pharmaceutical limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 60 Columbia Road, Building B, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 and 400 Interpace Parkway, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054.

98. Defendant Actavis Pharma Inc. is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 400 Interpace Parkway, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054. In 2016, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. acquired Defendant Actavis Pharma Inc. Prior to 2016, Actavis Pharma Inc. was a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Actavis LLC f/k/a Actavis Inc.

99. Defendant Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Sagent”) is incorporated under the laws of Delaware and maintains a principal place of business at 1901 N. Roselle Road, Ste. 700, Schaumburg,

IL 60195.

100. Defendants Actavis LLC f/k/a Actavis Inc. and Actavis Pharma Inc. (collectively “Actavis”) and Sagent transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

101. Actavis and Sagent derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

102. At all relevant times, Actavis and Sagent was in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection Concentrate approved by the FDA under NDA #203551. Actavis and Sagent expected that Docetaxel Injection Concentrate would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

103. Actavis filed NDA #203551 on March 14, 2012 under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA's findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

104. Actavis and Sagent's one-vial formulation, however, was different from Taxotere's one-vial formulation because it is offered at an additional 140 mg dosage form, contains excipients citric acid and Kollidor 12 PF (Povidone k12), and uses reduced levels of polysorbate 80. After Actavis' initial docetaxel approval, a 160 mg dosage form was also introduced.

105. Actavis received FDA approval for NDA #203551 on April 12, 2013 and began marketing these dosage forms on July 1, 2013.

106. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of” the drug is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

107. Actavis submitted a CBE sNDA (S-001) on May 14, 2013, which was approved on November 4, 2013. Actavis also submitted a “Prior Approval” sNDA (S-002) on March 21, 2014,

which was approved on September 17, 2014. Neither resulting label change related to hair loss.

108. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss in its labeling.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

109. Federal subject-matter jurisdiction in the constituent actions is based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Plaintiffs allege the existence of subject-matter jurisdiction, and absent objection, there is complete diversity among Plaintiffs and Defendants and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

110. A substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' causes of action occurred in the federal judicial district identified in the Short Form Complaint. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a), venue is proper there.

111. Pursuant to the Transfer Orders of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, venue in actions sharing common questions with the initially transferred actions is proper in this district for coordinated pre-trial proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407.

112. Defendants have significant contacts with the federal judicial district identified in the Short Form Complaint such that they are subject to the personal jurisdiction of the court in that district.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **A. Development, Approval, and Labeling Changes for Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez**

113. Taxotere is a drug used in the treatment of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer, and is a part of a family of cytotoxic drugs referred to as taxanes.

114. Taxanes are derived from yew trees, and unlike other cytotoxic drugs, taxanes inhibit the multiplication of cancer cells by over-stabilizing the structure of a cancer cell, which prevents the cell from breaking down and reorganizing for cell reproduction. They are widely used as chemotherapy agents.

115. The development of taxanes began in the 1960s. Bristol-Myers Squibb developed, manufactured, and distributed the first commercially available taxane in the United States, known as

Taxol (paclitaxel).

116. Taxol is the main competitor drug to Taxotere, and has been on the market since 1993.

117. Both docetaxel (Taxotere) and paclitaxel (Taxol) disrupt the microtubular network in cells that is essential for mitotic and interphase cellular function in the cell multiplication process.

118. Taxotere began as a two-vial product. One vial is called a concentrate, and it contains docetaxel, along with polysorbate 80 and residual amounts of ethanol. The other vial is a diluent, containing water and ethanol.

119. The concentrate vial and the diluent vial are combined to form a “premix.” A premix can be added to an intravenous bag to make a prefusion.

120. Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez are not purchased by patients at a pharmacy; rather, patients use of these drugs occurs via administration through injection and/or intravenously at a physician's office or medical treatment facility.

121. In the 1980s scientists at Rhône-Poulenc Rorer S.A., Defendant Sanofi S.A.’s predecessor-in-interest, began developing Taxotere with the intention of making a more potent taxane. Since that time, Defendants Sanofi S.A., Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi US Services Inc., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC, and their affiliates and predecessors-in-interest (collectively “Sanofi”) have controlled the development and been the owner, holder, or assignee of the patents related to Taxotere.

122. Phase I clinical testing of Taxotere began in 1990 (called the “TAX 001” study) and continued until 1992. Sanofi reported the results of clinical testing in May 1994.

123. Soon thereafter, on July 27, 1994, Sanofi applied for FDA approval for Taxotere under NDA #20449. The FDA's Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee panel unanimously denied approval of the drug, requesting more data on toxicity, side effects, and phase III test results.

124. After additional clinical testing, the FDA approved Taxotere in May 14, 1996 for limited use—namely, for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer

that had either (1) progressed during anthracycline-based therapy or (2) relapsed during anthracycline-based adjuvant therapy.

125. The label approved for Taxotere for this indication reflected the medical community's understanding that temporary hair loss is commonly associated with chemotherapy drugs and provided no information about the risk of permanent alopecia.

126. In fact, the clinical trial sponsored by Sanofi to support initial approval did not evaluate alopecia as a long-term side-effect of Taxotere.

127. After the initial approval, Sanofi sought and received FDA approval for additional indications. Based on self-sponsored clinical trials, Sanofi claimed Taxotere's superiority over competing chemotherapy products approved for breast cancer treatment, including claiming superior efficacy over the lower potency paclitaxel (Taxol), its primary competitor.

128. On June 22, 1998, the FDA approved a slightly broader indication for Taxotere that extended its use to patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer as treatment after "failure of prior chemotherapy."

129. That same year, Sanofi obtained FDA approval in December 1999 for use of Taxotere in treating "locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer after failure of prior platinum-based chemotherapy."

130. As with all prior FDA-approved indications for Taxotere, the drug was approved at this time, and until late 2002, only as a second-line of treatment, meaning that Sanofi was prohibited from promoting Taxotere for use in patients who had not undergone and failed a specified first-line of treatment.

131. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in November 2002 for use of Taxotere "in combination with cisplatin for the treatment of patients with unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer who have not previously received chemotherapy for this condition."



132. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in May 2004 for use of Taxotere “in combination with prednisone as a treatment for patients with androgen independent (hormone refractory) metastatic prostate cancer.”

133. Also that year, Sanofi obtained FDA approval in August 2004 for use of Taxotere “in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide for the adjuvant treatment of patients with operable node-positive breast cancer.”

134. In March 2006, Sanofi obtained FDA approval for use of Taxotere “in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil for the treatment of patients with advanced gastric adenocarcinoma, including adenocarcinoma of the gastroesophageal junction, who have not received prior chemotherapy for advanced disease.”

135. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in October 2006 for use of Taxotere “in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil for the induction treatment of patients with inoperable locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN).” In September 2007, FDA approved a broader SCCHN indication that removed the condition of inoperability.

136. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in May 2010 to add language related to pediatric safety and efficacy, including: “The overall safety profile of TAXOTERE in pediatric patients receiving monotherapy or TCF was consistent with the known safety profile for adults.” Additional changes to this label included a number of edits described by Sanofi as “housekeeping” that, among other things, deleted the phrase “hair generally grows back” and added “most common side effects of TAXOTERE include: [...] hair loss” to the “Patient Information” section of the label. As with previous labels, the May 2010 label provides no information about irreversible or permanent hair loss.

137.

[REDACTED]

138. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

139. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

140. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sanofi then submitted a CBE sNDA on November 24, 2015 adding the language “cases of permanent alopecia have been reported” to the “Adverse Reactions” and “Patient Counseling Information” sections of the label. Sanofi also made changes to the “Patient Information” section of the label adding that the most common side effects of TAXOTERE include “hair loss: in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed.” The FDA approved Sanofi’s sNDA on December 11, 2015.

141. On April 11, 2018, Sanofi submitted a Prior Approval sNDA, request that the Taxotere label be updated to identify adverse events occurring at the conclusion of the follow-up period in TAX 316 in 2010. Among the adverse events identified by Sanofi included 29 patients who had alopecia ongoing at a median follow-up of 10-years. FDA approved Sanofi’s proposed label change on October 5, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

#### **B. Defendants’ Duties Under the FDCA and State Law**

142. The primary responsibility for timely communicating complete, accurate and current

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/applletter/2018/020449Orig1s079ltr.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/applletter/2018/020449Orig1s079ltr.pdf)

[REDACTED]

safety and efficacy information related to prescription drugs rests with NDA holders/drug sponsors (such as manufacturers or labelers) and their assigns or agents; they have superior, and in many cases exclusive, access to the relevant safety and efficacy information, including post- market complaints and data.

143. To fulfill their essential responsibilities, these entities must vigilantly monitor all reasonably available information. They must closely evaluate the post-market clinical experience of their drugs and timely provide updated safety and efficacy information to the healthcare community and to consumers.

144. When monitoring and reporting adverse events, as required by both federal regulations and state law, time is of the essence. The purpose of monitoring a product's post- market experience is to detect potential safety signals that could indicate to drug sponsors and the medical community that a public safety problem exists. If, for example, a manufacturer were to delay in reporting post-market information, that delay could mean that researchers, FDA, and the medical community are years behind in identifying a public safety issue associated with the drug. In the meantime, more patients are harmed by using the product without knowing, understanding, and accepting its true risks. This is why drug sponsors must not only completely and accurately monitor, investigate and report post-market experiences, but they must also report the data in a timely fashion.

145. Because complete information about the safety of a drug cannot be known at the time of approval, and because the true picture of a product's safety profile emerges over time because of use by patients, it is a central premise of federal drug regulation that the NDA holders and their assigns or agents—not the FDA—bear responsibility for the content of its label at all times. Consequently, NDA holders are primarily responsible for crafting an adequate label and ensuring that warnings remain adequate as long as the drug is on the market.

146. A drug is “misbranded” in violation of the FDCA when its labeling is false and

misleading, or does not provide adequate directions for use and adequate warnings. See 21 U.S.C. §§ 321(n); 331(a), (b), (k); 352(a), (f). A drug's labeling satisfies federal requirements if it gives physicians and pharmacists sufficient information—including indications for use and “any relevant hazards, contraindications, side effects, and precautions”—to allow those professionals “to use the drug safely and for the purposes for which it is intended.” 21 C.F.R. § 201.100(c)(1).

147. As part of their responsibility to monitor post-market clinical experiences with the drug and provide updated safety and efficacy information to the healthcare community and to consumers, each approved NDA applicant, whether under 505(b)(1) or (2), “must promptly review all adverse drug experience information obtained or otherwise received by the applicant from any source, foreign or domestic, including information derived from commercial marketing experience, post marketing clinical investigations, post marketing epidemiological/surveillance studies, reports in the scientific literature, and unpublished scientific papers.” 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(b). Any report of a “serious and unexpected” drug experience, whether foreign or domestic, must be reported to the FDA within 15 days and must be promptly investigated by the manufacturer. 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(c)(1)(i-ii). Most other adverse event reports must be submitted quarterly for three years after the application is approved and annually thereafter. 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(c)(2)(i). These periodic reports must include a “history of actions taken since the last report because of adverse drug experiences (for example, labeling changes or studies initiated).” 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(c)(2)(ii).

148. Federal law requires labeling to be updated as information accumulates: “labeling must be revised to include a warning about a clinically significant hazard as soon as there is reasonable evidence of a causal association with a drug; a causal relationship need not have been definitely established.” 21 C.F.R. § 201.57(c)(6)(i). Thus, for example, drug manufacturers must warn of an adverse effect where there is “some basis to believe there is a causal relationship between the drug and the occurrence of the adverse event.” 21 C.F.R. § 201.57(c)(7).

149. All changes to drug labeling require FDA assent. 21 C.F.R. § 314.70(b)(2)(v)(A). Brand-name drug sponsors, including those whose drugs were approved under Section 505(b)(2), may seek to change their approved labels by filing a supplemental application. 21 C.F.R. § 314.70.

150. One regulation, the “Changes Being Effected” (CBE) regulation, permits a manufacturer to unilaterally change a drug label to reflect “newly acquired information,” subject to later FDA review and approval. 21 C.F.R. § 314.70(c)(6)(iii). Newly acquired information includes “new analyses of previously submitted data.” 21 C.F.R. § 314.3(b). Thus, for instance, if a drug sponsor were to determine that a warning were insufficient based on a new analysis of previously existing data, it could submit a CBE and change its labeling.

151. The longer a drug sponsor delays updating its labeling so that it reflects current safety information, the more likely it is that medical professionals will continue to prescribe drugs without advising patients of harmful side effects, and the more likely it is that patients will suffer harmful side effects without the opportunity to evaluate risks for themselves.

**C. Defendants Knew that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate May Cause Permanent Alopecia.**

152. In 1997, Sanofi initiated TAX 316, a self-sponsored clinical trial comparing the effects of a regimen of fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“FAC”) with a regimen of docetaxel, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“TAC”) in patients with operable node-positive breast cancer. A total of 1040 patients from 112 centers participated in TAX 316 with 744 patients receiving TAC and 736 receiving FAC. In 2004, an interim analysis of TAX 316’s 55-month median follow-up data demonstrated that 3.2% of patients who took Taxotere had persistent alopecia.

153. Beginning in 1998, Sanofi sponsored a trial entitled GEICAM 9805. It was initiated to compare the effects of a regimen of fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“FAC”) with a regimen of docetaxel, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“TAC”) in patients with high- risk, node-negative breast cancer. Between June 1999 and March 2003, a total of 1060 patients from 55

centers were randomly assigned to receive either TAC or FAC. By 2005, it knew that the GEICAM 9805 study demonstrated that 9.2 percent of patients who took Taxotere had persistent alopecia.

154. In March 2006, Sanofi's pharmacovigilance department received an inquiry from a physician about the reversibility of alopecia following Taxotere treatment, noting that a patient had been experiencing alopecia since 2004. In response, Sanofi's Global Safety Officer for Taxotere internally acknowledged that cases of irreversible alopecia had occurred during Sanofi's clinical trials for Taxotere and that the medical literature might contain additional reports of irreversible alopecia. Despite this, Sanofi's Global Safety Officer advised against doing a literature search on the topic of irreversible alopecia and Taxotere. In addition, Sanofi withheld this information from the Taxotere label and concealed it from the medical community and consumers, including Plaintiffs.

155. In December 2006, an oncologist from Denver, Colorado, Dr. Scot Sedlacek, presented a study entitled "Persistent significant alopecia (PSA) from adjuvant docetaxel after doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide (AC) chemotherapy in women with breast cancer." Dr. Sedlacek tracked patients in three groups: Group A (doxorubicin regimen without a taxane); Group B (doxorubicin plus paclitaxel) and Group C (doxorubicin plus docetaxel). No women in Group A or Group B experienced persistent significant alopecia, but 6.3 percent of those in Group C did. Dr. Sedlacek concluded "that when docetaxel is administered after 4 doses of AC, there is a small but significant possibility of poor hair regrowth lasting up to 7 years. Such an emotionally devastating long term toxicity from this combination must be taken into account when deciding on adjuvant chemotherapy programs in women who likely will be cured of their breast cancer."

156. On November 21, 2008, Sanofi responded to an inquiry from a patient in the United Kingdom concerning Taxotere and the incidence of permanent alopecia. That letter acknowledged that "one reference of non-reversible alopecia" had been identified. Its letter cited a paper published in the journal of Clinical Oncology for the proposition that "clinical studies ... showed one case of

non-reversible alopecia at the end of the study.” The letter also cited another paper from the New England Journal of Medicine, which stated that “studies involving Taxotere in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide observed alopecia to be ongoing at the median follow-up time of 55 months in 3 percent of patients at the end of the chemotherapy.”

157. In 2009, the British Journal of Dermatology published an article entitled “Irreversible and severe alopecia following docetaxel or paclitaxel cytotoxic therapy for breast cancer.” That article reported a case in which a 58-year-old woman “developed diffuse and irreversible alopecia 7-years ago, after being treated with six cycles of docetaxel ... every 3 weeks for a local occurrence.” She did not have alopecia before administration of the chemotherapy. The article concluded “the irreversibility can be attributed only to the cytotoxic effect of docetaxel.”

158. By early 2010, Sanofi had received reports from hundreds of women describing their permanent hair loss following treatment with Taxotere. Despite this fact, Sanofi withheld this information from the label and concealed it from the medical community and consumers, including Plaintiffs.

159. On March 5, 2010, The Globe and Mail, a Canadian newspaper, published an article entitled “Women who took chemo drug say they weren’t warned of permanent hair loss.” The article explained: “Women who took a drug to fight breast cancer say they were never warned of a side effect—permanent hair loss—that left them looking sick long after they were treated for the disease.” The article described this permanent hair loss as a “lasting side effect of the chemotherapy drug Taxotere, in combination with other drugs.” The article included sufferers from Montreal, Canada; Brittany, France; and Oklahoma who had been treated with Taxotere. The article explained that the “side effect of persistent alopecia is suffered by about 3 percent of patients who take Taxotere with other chemotherapy drugs, according to the manufacturer’s own studies,” but that a “different study suggests that the incidence of persistent alopecia could be as high as 6 percent.”

160. The Globe and Mail article also cited medical oncologist Dr. Hugues Bourgeois of Le Mans, France, “who presented research on 82 patients with persistent alopecia at the San Antonio Breast Cancer symposium this winter.” Dr. Bourgeois described the choice he gives his patients—twelve cycles of Taxol or four cycles of Taxotere, where the risk of hair loss is higher. According to Dr. Bourgeois, most choose Taxol, which Dr. Bourgeois said “works just as well on breast cancer.”

161. On March 6, 2010, CBS News published an article entitled “Sanofi’s Latest Challenge: Women Who Say Its Chemotherapy Left Them Permanently Bald.” The article described a group of women who called themselves “Taxotears” and encouraged women who have lost all their hair to report the adverse events to Sanofi and drug watchdog authorities. It also noted that “Taxotere’s official prescribing information ... makes no mention of permanent alopecia,” and that “small studies suggest that as many as 6.3 percent of patients lose all their hair forever.”

162. The CBS News article also mentioned that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the United Kingdom noted that “it was aware of one study in which 22 of 687 patients (about 3 percent) had persistent baldness after nearly five years.”

163. On May 10, 2010, an article by Ben Tallon, MBChB, and others entitled “Permanent chemotherapy-induced alopecia: Case report and review of the literature” was published online. That article described “a case of permanent hair loss following standard dose chemotherapy with docetaxel, carboplatin, and trastuzumab for the treatment of breast carcinoma.” There, the “lack of evidence for alopecia with trastuzumab, and the exposure to only a single infusion of standard dose carboplatin, suggests that docetaxel is the implicated agent.” The article also explained: “Permanent [chemotherapy-induced alopecia] has been described following the use of ... docetaxel.”

164. Later in 2010, Sanofi completed its analysis of the ten-year follow-up results for TAX 316, the clinical trial used to support the adjuvant breast cancer indication. This analysis found that the number of women reporting persisting hair loss had increased from the 22 patients reported in



2004 to 29 patients out of the 687 patients tracked into follow-up. This represented an increase in the incidence of persistent alopecia from approximately 3% to 4.2%. Sanofi had previously decided in 2009 not to update the U.S. label with the follow-up data from TAX 316. Instead, Sanofi submitted to the FDA only the Final Clinical Study Report for TAX 316, which is over a thousand pages long, without submitting a labeling change. In addition, Sanofi continued to conceal this information from the medical community and consumers, including Plaintiffs.

165. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

166. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

167. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Instead, Sanofi continued to conceal this information from the medical community and consumers in the United States, including Plaintiffs.

168. Also in 2011, the American Journal of Dermatopathology published a study entitled “Permanent Alopecia After Systemic Chemotherapy: A Clinicopathological Study of 10 Cases,” by Mariya Miteva, MD and others. The article discussed “the histological features of 10 cases of

permanent alopecia after systematic chemotherapy with taxanes (docetaxel),” including 6 cases in which the patients took docetaxel for breast cancer. “All patients had moderate to very severe hair thinning ...”

169. On May 9, 2012, the Annals of Oncology published an article entitled “Permanent scalp alopecia related to breast cancer chemotherapy by sequential fluorouracil/ epirubicin/ cyclophosphamide (FEC) and docetaxel: a prospective study of 20 patients,” by Nicolas Kluger, M.D.,Ph.D., among others. It reported that, since 2009, “nine cases of permanent scalp alopecia after systemic chemotherapy related to taxanes used to treat breast cancer have been reported ... Docetaxel was almost always involved, alone in seven cases ... or in association with carboplatin ... and trastuzumab.”

170. In October 2013, Drs. Nicola Thorp, Felicity Swift, Donna Arundell and Helen Wong presented at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in the United Kingdom on “Long Term Hair Loss in Patients with Early Breast Cancer Receiving Docetaxel Chemotherapy.” Their study was based on a questionnaire sent in October 2013 to patients who received docetaxel in 2010. Out of 189 questionnaires, 134 were returned. “Of those responding 21 (15.8 percent) had significant persistent scalp hair loss.” The presentation concluded: “Long term significant scalp alopecia (hair lasting for up to 3.5 years following completion of chemotherapy) may affect 10-15 percent of patients following docetaxel for EBC. This appears to be unrelated to other patient and treatment characteristics ... This risk should be discussed routinely (as part of the process of informed consent) with all patients embarking upon docetaxel as a component of management of EBC.”

171. This Clatterbridge study was also published at the 2014 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

172. On November 10, 2015, the Journal of Clinical Oncology published an article entitled “Epirubicin Plus Cyclophosphamide Followed by Docetaxel Versus Epirubicin Plus Docetaxel

Followed by Capecitabine As Adjuvant Therapy for Node-Positive Early Breast Cancer: Results From the GEICAM/2003-10 Study.” This article reviewed and reiterated the connection between docetaxel and long-term alopecia:

Patients who received [docetaxel] not only had to wear a wig for a longer period of time but also reported a significantly higher proportion of long-term incomplete scalp hair recovery and permanent wig use after therapy. This adverse effect, probably related to docetaxel ... has previously been described by others. Sedlacek reported that approximately 6% of patients who received adjuvant docetaxel for early BC had persistent alopecia, whereas this toxicity was not seen in 384 patients receiving nondocetaxel adjuvant regimens. Kluger et al reported 20 patients with BC with persistent hair loss of androgenetic-like pattern after adjuvant treatment with CEF followed by docetaxel. Consequently, a prospective study of the efficacy of scalp hypothermia in the prevention of docetaxel-induced persistent alopecia is ongoing at one of the centers participating in the present trial.

173. Despite this, hair loss was listed as a “possible side effect[] of Taxotere” that “generally grows back” in a Patient Information Letter circulated by Sanofi beginning in December 23, 1999 and an informational brochure given to oncology nurses in 2006.

174. By contrast, the labeling for Taxotere approved by the European Medicines Agency in 2005 acknowledged that “[c]ases of persisting alopecia have been reported.” It also stated in a tabulated list of adverse reactions in breast cancer that took into account node-positive breast cancer (from TAX 316) and node-negative breast cancer (from GEICAM 9805) that alopecia is a “[v]ery common adverse reaction,” with persisting alopecia occurring under three percent of the time.

175. Likewise, in a self-sponsored clinical trial, the informed consent form provided by Sanofi to Canadian patients disclosed irreversible alopecia as a possible side effect but a similar informed consent form provided to United States patients in 2006 and 2007 did not. Again, Sanofi concealed this information from patients in the United States.

176. In the September 28, 2007 version of the Highlights of Prescribing Information in the United States, alopecia is listed as one of the most common adverse reactions. There is no mention of permanent alopecia.

177. The April 2010 version of Taxotere's United States labeling stated that "hair generally grows back." That language does not appear in the May 2010 version of Taxotere's label. Instead, the 2011 version of the prescribing information stated under "Patient Counseling Information" that "side effects such as ... hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration." "Patient Information" indicated that the "most common side effects of TAXOTERE include: ... hair loss." The document contains no mention of irreversible or permanent hair loss. Instead, it states that "alopecia" is one of the most common adverse reactions. The November 2014 version of this labeling information contains the same text.

178. In May 2015, Sanofi UK updated its Taxotere label. That version states that a "[v]ery common" side effect is "hair loss (in most cases normal hair growth should return)."

179. On June 12, 2015, Canada's Taxotere labeling changed. Its new labeling stated: "Hair loss may happen shortly after treatment has begun. Your hair should grow back once you've finished the treatment. However, some patients may experience persistent hair loss."

180. In August 2015, Australia's Taxotere labeling changed. Its new labeling stated that alopecia was "observed to be ongoing at the median follow-up time of 55 months."

181. In the United States, Sanofi submitted a CBE on November 24, 2015 concerning permanent alopecia.

182. On December 11, 2015, FDA approved the CBE. Under the "Adverse Reactions" and "Patient Counseling Information" sections of the label, Sanofi added the language that "cases of permanent hair loss have been reported." In the "Patient Information" section, Sanofi added that the most common side effects of TAXOTERE include "hair loss: in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed."

183. On April 11, 2018, Sanofi submitted a Prior Approval sNDA, request that the Taxotere label be updated to identify adverse events occurring at the conclusion of the follow-up period in TAX

316 in 2010. Among the adverse events identified by Sanofi included alopecia still ongoing at median follow-up of 8-years. FDA approved Sanofi's proposed label change on October 5, 2018.

184. Upon information and belief, Defendants failed to comply with the FDA postmarketing reporting requirements under 21 C.F.R. § 314.80 by, among other things, failing to report each adverse drug experience concerning the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate products, whether foreign or domestic, including Plaintiffs' injuries complained of herein, as soon as possible but in no case later than 15 calendar days after initial receipt of the information by Defendants, failing to promptly investigate all adverse drug experiences concerning these drug products that are the subject of these postmarketing 15-day Alert reports, failing to submit follow up reports within 15 calendar days of receipt of new information or as requested by the FDA, and, if additional information is not obtainable, failing to maintain records of the unsuccessful steps taken to seek additional information.

185. Also, consistent with the Changes Being Effected regulations, Defendants had and continue to have a duty to initiate a change to the products' labels to reflect the true levels of risk, including the risk of developing Plaintiffs' injuries complained of herein. To this day, Defendants have not adequately satisfied their duty to update the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate products' labeling or prescribing information to reflect their knowledge as to the true risks of developing the injuries complained of herein.

**D. Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate Caused Permanent Alopecia in Many Breast Cancer Patients.**

186. Chemotherapy is known to cause temporary and reversible hair loss. Hair loss occurs because chemotherapy targets rapidly dividing cells (both normal, healthy cells as well as cancer cells) including hair follicles. Hair follicles, the structures in the skin filled with tiny blood vessels that make hair, are some of the fastest growing cells in the body, thus, hair follicles are some of the most likely cells to be damaged by chemotherapy.

187. There are 100,000 hair follicles on the scalp that typically grow about 0.3 to 0.4 mm a day or about six inches a year. For hair production, hair follicles undergo a cycle that consists of three phases: the anagen phase (growth), the catagen phase (transition), and the telogen phase (resting). During the anagen phase, the cells at the root of the hair follicle are dividing rapidly and an entire hair shaft from tip to root is formed. The matrix cells, which build the hair shaft, have a cell cycle length of approximately 18 hours. Approximately 90 percent of the hair on the scalp is normally in the anagen phase.

188. The catagen phase is a short transitional phase that occurs at the end of the anagen phase when growth of a hair stops. Only about 3 percent of hair follicles are in the catagen phase at any time.

189. The hair follicle is completely at rest during the telogen phase and, at the end of the telogen phase, the hair falls out and a new hair is supposed to start growing in the hair follicle beginning the hair cycle again with the anagen phase. Around 6 to 8 percent of all hair is regularly in the telogen phase.

190. Chemotherapy causes the matrix cells to stop dividing abruptly in the anagen phase. As a result, the portion of the hair shaft that is the closest to the skull narrows and subsequently breaks within the hair canal. For this reason, hair loss usually begins one to three weeks after the initiation of chemotherapy and hair may fall out very quickly in clumps or gradually.

191. Because the majority of hair on the scalp is in the anagen phase during any given period, the hair loss that results from chemotherapy can be quite significant and visible.

192. The effects of chemotherapy on hair follicles results in temporary hair loss that lasts until the telogen phase is complete and a new hair cycle begins. According to the Mayo Clinic, hair can be expected to grow back after chemotherapy within three to six months. Dr. Ralph M. Trueb, the author of several articles related hair loss associated with chemotherapy, also states that hair regrowth

following chemotherapy treatment will occur within three to six months after cessation of treatment.

193. Unlike the temporary and reversible alopecia that ordinarily results from chemotherapy, Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate cause Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia.

194. There is no single definition for Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia and the amount of time to establish permanent hair loss varies from patient to patient, including among Plaintiffs. The scientific literature has variously referred to Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia as occurring between twelve to twenty-four months following chemotherapy treatment. Some literature has indicated that hair loss can be deemed “persistent” six months beyond the completion of chemotherapy.

195. Sanofi has stated in court filings that “persistent” alopecia generally describes hair loss for some duration of time following chemotherapy (e.g., 3 days, 30 days, 3 months, 6 months, etc.) and carries with it the potential for hair regrowth to occur.

196. Sanofi has also stated in court filings that “irreversible” or “permanent” alopecia, at a basic level means that an individual’s hair will never regrow.

197. Before this litigation and after, Sanofi has described Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia in a number of different ways. Employees of Sanofi have testified that permanent hair loss does not necessarily mean hair loss of six months. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

198. Upon information and belief, the varying definitions of Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia, as described above, were not reasonably knowable to prescribers or consumers of Taxotere, including Plaintiffs.

199. The Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia caused by Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate is not limited to the scalp and can affect hair follicles throughout the body.

200. Patients who receive Taxotere without any other type of chemotherapy have experienced permanent hair loss all over their bodies. For example, one oncologist reported he was unlikely to prescribe Taxotere in early stage breast cancer patients because of the toxicity of the drug. When prescribing Taxotere in early stage breast cancer cases, he recommended lower dosage levels over a longer period of time. His patients who have received Taxotere have experienced permanent hair loss.

201. Also, the GEICAM 9805, a study sponsored by Sanofi produced evidence that over 9 percent of high risk breast cancer patients who were administered Taxotere suffered permanent alopecia with hair loss lasting, in some cases, over ten years.

202. Dr. Sedlacek's 2006 study, as described above, further demonstrates that Taxotere causes permanent hair loss. His study divided patients he treated from January of 1994 to December of 2004 into three groups. The first group, which contained 258 patients, received Doxorubicin. None suffered permanent alopecia. The second group, which contained 126 patients, received Doxorubicin and Taxol. Again, none suffered permanent alopecia. The third group contained 112 patients who received Doxorubicin and Taxotere. Of those patients, 6.3 percent suffered permanent alopecia with hair regrowth of less than 50 percent of the amount before chemotherapy.

203. In addition, and as detailed above, Dr. Tallon's 2010 article concluded that, when a



cocktail of Taxotere, Trastuzumab, and Carboplatin was administered and there was resulting permanent alopecia, Taxotere was the implicated agent. Its reasoning was that there was a lack of evidence linking alopecia with Trastuzumab and limited exposure to Carboplatin. Trastuzumab does not contain a component that causes hair loss and does not increase the rate of hair loss when combined with standard chemotherapy. Similarly, Carboplatin causes only mild temporary alopecia in 5 percent of users.

204. Likewise, the 2012 study by Dr. Kluger and others concluded that Taxanes were responsible for permanent scalp alopecia among patients who were administered a sequential regimen of FEC (fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide) followed by docetaxel. They noted that no patients treated with only anthracycline regimens (and not docetaxel) suffered from permanent severe scalp alopecia.

205. Further, Drs. Thorp, Swift, Arundell and Wong in their 2014 presentation reported that 15.8 percent of Taxotere patients surveyed had significant persistent scalp hair loss for up to 3.5 years following completion of chemotherapy.

206. Finally, Sanofi's change to the Taxotere label in 2015 and 2018, described above, acknowledges that Taxotere causes permanent hair loss but fails to do so adequately. Moreover, some Defendants have chosen not to adopt Sanofi's revised labeling. Under the "Patient Counseling Information" of the revised label, the new text reads: "Explain to patients that side effects such as ... hair loss (cases of permanent hair loss have been reported) are associated with docetaxel administration." Additionally, under "Patient Information," the label states that the "most common side effects of TAXOTERE include: ... hair loss: in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed." The label contains no mention of irreversible or permanent hair loss under "Warnings and Precautions" or "Adverse Reactions."

207. By contrast, in a report issued on Taxotere on May 12, 2016, the European Medicines Agency (“EMA”) concluded that “[b]ased on review of the Sanofi global pharmacovigilance database, worldwide scientific literature, clinical studies, and biological plausibility, the cumulative weighted evidence is sufficient to support a causal association between docetaxel and permanent/irreversible alopecia in the patients who received docetaxel.”

208. Because NDA holders and their assigns or agents are held to the knowledge of an expert in the field concerning the products they sell, Defendants cannot plead ignorance of the scientific information publicly available or otherwise available to them that would have supported a label change, including the studies and information discussed herein.

**E. Sanofi Marketed & Promoted Taxotere Despite Knowing It Caused Permanent Alopecia**

209. Sanofi, including its predecessors and affiliates, have designed, directed, and/or engaged in a marketing scheme to over promote Taxotere directly to consumers and for off-label uses not approved by the FDA. As a result, Sanofi has earned in excess of €7 billion in revenue on its sales of Taxotere in the United States:

<b>Year</b>	<b>U.S. Sales as Reported by Sanofi S.A.</b>
2000	€367,000,000
2001	€541,000,000
2002	€701,000,000
2003	€733,000,000
2004	Could not be located
2005	€695,000,000
2006	€708,000,000
2007	€691,000,000
2008	€737,000,000
2009	€827,000,000
2010	€786,000,000
2011	€243,000,000
2012	€53,000,000
2013	€42,000,000
2014	€8,000,000

2015	€-1,000,000
2016	€4,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€7,135,000,000</b>

210. In or around 2000, Sanofi hired a marketing firm to conduct a study on the primary concerns of oncologists and breast cancer patients undergoing treatment. The results of the study revealed that breast cancer patients felt an innate need to stay ‘connected’ through various means.

211. As a result of the marketing study, Sanofi launched a new sales promotional campaign in 2000 known as “Connection Cards” in which gift packages were offered to breast cancer patients at their oncologist’s office. These gift packages initially included ten custom designed note cards and envelopes; a 30-minute prepaid long-distance calling card; a reference card with contact information for nationally recognized breast cancer organizations; a reference card with contact information with the company’s breast cancer support program; and most importantly, a brochure giving detailed information about Taxotere.

212. To maintain the effectiveness of the promotional campaign, Sanofi added coupons for wigs and vouchers for discounted taxi services to the gift packages provided to breast cancer patients. In 2002, Sanofi made available to U.S. patients approximately 60,000 “Connection Cards” through 150 sales representatives.

213. Sanofi claimed the promotional campaign to be a success, adding the campaign to its permanent rotation of promotional materials.

214. Sanofi also promoted Taxotere for the following breast cancer treatments, which at the time, were neither approved by the FDA nor supported by the available drug compendia: adjuvant breast cancer, neo-adjuvant breast cancer, weekly dose for metastatic breast cancer.

215. Sanofi directed its U.S. sales force to misrepresent the safety and effectiveness of the off-label use of Taxotere to expand the market for Taxotere in unapproved settings, such as a first-line of treatment or for early-stage breast cancer.

216. On July 26, 2001, the FDA’s Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising and Communications, now known as the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion, sent a letter to Sanofi identifying promotional activities that were in violation of the FDCA and its implementing regulations on off-label promotion.

217. In particular, FDA identified promotional brochures distributed at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in May 2001 that stated that Taxotere was safe and effective for first-line treatment in combination with Adriamycin such as that it was “the only taxane combination approved for first-line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer.”

218. This was considered off-label promotion because Taxotere in combination with Adriamycin was approved by FDA only for second-line treatment—not first-line treatment—of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. Likewise, as explained by FDA, other taxane combinations, as well as other classes of drug combinations, were approved for this first-line treatment. FDA demanded that Sanofi “immediately cease the distribution of these and similar promotional materials.”

219. FDA sent a second warnings letter to Sanofi on December 18, 2002, concerning promotional materials at the 2002 Annual Meeting, which featured queen chess pieces and stated that Taxotere was “at the center of more strategies every day.” According to FDA, these promotional materials constituted “false or misleading promotion” which could “compromise patient survival and safety.” FDA focused on Sanofi’s claim that Taxotere resulted in “significant survival advantages,” noting that this statement was not supported by clinical trial results. FDA also noted that Sanofi underemphasized information concerning severe risks that can result from using Taxotere.

220. Sanofi responded to FDA on December 30, 2002, stating “we are discontinuing the use of these [ads], and any similar materials.” Nonetheless, Sanofi continued its false and misleading promotional and marketing activities.

221. Despite Sanofi's assurances that these and similar promotional materials would be discontinued and destroyed, FDA sent Sanofi a third warnings letter on July 17, 2003, identifying two direct-to-consumer promotional pieces that raised "similar" concerns. These two promotional ads appeared on the back of People Magazine's circulation wrap and prominently featured the slogan "The Next Move May Be the Key to Your Survival" and "It's Your Move," which again featured the queen and chess piece theme.

222. FDA found these ads to be misleading because the headline suggests that, if cancer patients want to survive breast or lung cancer, their "next move" should include Taxotere, thus implying that Taxotere is "more effective than has been demonstrated by substantial evidence or substantial clinical experience." FDA concluded that Sanofi's ads "reinforce[] the message that treatment with Taxotere will result in significant survival advantages," when the clinical data "did not necessarily represent longterm survival or a cure." FDA demanded that Sanofi submit a letter stating the status of these items (active or discontinued) as well a list of violative promotional materials.

223. Sanofi replied on August 1, 2003, assuring FDA that the two ads had been discontinued and identifying another direct-to-consumer promotional piece, similar to the two ads. The third ad, which featured the same Taxotere slogans, "*The Next Move May Be the Key to Your Survival*," and "*It's Your Move*," had been disseminated in "Coping," "MAAM," and "Cure" Magazines between March and July 2003 and was planned to be disseminated in these magazines in addition to "Y-Me" magazine through December 2003. Only after follow-up telephone calls did Sanofi assure FDA in an August 21, 2003 letter that it had discontinued use of this additional misleading piece.

224. FDA concluded on November 12, 2003 that these three ads likewise "misleadingly overstate[d] the survival benefits ... and impl[ied] that survival depends on treatment with Taxotere," while simultaneously "minimizing the serious and potentially life-threatening risks associated with the drug."

225. As late as January 2004, Sanofi distributed banned materials to physicians and other healthcare providers that promoted Taxotere, using materials with the same misleading slogans and substantially similar misleading information.

226. In addition, Sanofi's salespeople were directed to "cherry pick" positive clinical study results. For example, in the breast cancer setting, Sanofi trained its salespeople to downplay the results of clinical trial results and the NIH Guidelines for Adjuvant Breast Cancer, which showed that evidence of taxanes' role in the adjuvant treatment of node positive breast cancer was inconclusive. By contrast, to emphasize Taxotere's superiority over Taxol, they were also instructed to highlight preliminary results and abstracts from weaker trials. Similarly, they were trained to emphasize the lower incidence of non-lethal side effects when compared with Taxol while omitting the lethal side effect of severe neutropenia that occurs more frequently when using Taxotere.

227. In doing so, Sanofi continued to make false and misleading statements promoting the "superior efficacy" of Taxotere over the competing product paclitaxel (Taxol). In June 2008, Sanofi utilized marketing and promotional materials for Taxotere at the annual meeting for the American Society of Clinical Oncology, comparing the efficacy of Taxotere versus paclitaxel (Taxol). Specifically, Sanofi utilized a "reprint carrier," citing a clinical study published in the August 2005 edition of the Journal of Clinical Oncology. The cover of the reprint carrier claimed, among other things:

- "Taxotere demonstrated efficacy benefits vs paclitaxel"
- "This phase III study demonstrated that docetaxel is superior to paclitaxel in TTP, response duration, and OS [overall survival]."
- "Phase III trial demonstrated improved survival for Taxotere vs paclitaxel in metastatic breast cancer"

228. Sanofi's statements in the "reprint carrier" marketing the conclusions of the 2005 Journal of Clinical Oncology study were false and/or misleading in light of the 2007 and 2008 studies finding that Taxotere was not more effective than paclitaxel (Taxol) in the treatment of breast cancer.

229. Specifically, in August 2007, Cancer Treatment Reviews published a study that found no significant differences in the efficacy and outcomes obtained with Taxotere or Taxol (paclitaxel) in breast cancer treatment. Likewise, a 2008 study in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that Taxol (paclitaxel) was more effective than Taxotere for patients undergoing standard adjuvant chemotherapy with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide.

230. As a result of these false and misleading statements, in 2009, the FDA issued a warning letter to Sanofi citing these unsubstantiated claims of superiority over paclitaxel stating:

The Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reviewed a professional reprint carrier [US.DOC.07.04.078] for Taxotere (docetaxel) Injection Concentrate, Intravenous Infusion (Taxotere) submitted under cover of Form FDA 2253 by Sanofi-Aventis (SA) and obtained at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in June 2008. The reprint carrier includes a reprint from the Journal of Clinical Oncology, which describes the TAX 311 study. This reprint carrier is false or misleading because it presents unsubstantiated superiority claims and overstates the efficacy of Taxotere. Therefore, this material misbrands the drug in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), 21 U.S.C. 352(a) and 321(n). Cf. 21 CFR 202.1(e)(6)(i), (ii) & (e)(7)(ii).

...

The reference cited in support of these claims ... does not constitute substantial evidence or substantial clinical experience to support these claims and representations because, among other factors, the study failed to demonstrate statistical significance on the primary endpoint and has not been replicated.

231. In addition, Sanofi also began indirectly promoting Taxotere through a series of direct-to-consumer television commercials that began airing in 2007. One of these commercials showed breast cancer patients slowly removing their wigs as an omniscient voice stated: “Cancer is tough but so are you. Get the facts, share the feelings, look to the future—Sanofi Aventis— because health matters and so do you.” These and other similar direct-to-consumer advertisements continued at least through 2010.

#### **F. Sanofi Actively Sought to Hide that Taxotere Could Cause Permanent Hair Loss**

232. Sanofi’s marketing efforts also affirmatively sought to minimize any association

between Taxotere and permanent alopecia.

233. According to Sanofi's Global Safety Officer for Taxotere, Sanofi knew that Taxotere could cause permanent hair loss in 2006. Despite this, Sanofi created and published in 2006 an information brochure for oncology nurses that described alopecia as "a common, yet temporary, side effect of some cancer medicines" and provided no information regarding the risk of permanent alopecia associated with Taxotere.

234. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

235. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

236. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

237. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



238. [REDACTED]

239. [REDACTED]

240. [REDACTED]

241. As a result of Sanofi's fraudulent concealment of the association between Taxotere and Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia, the medical community and patients, including Plaintiffs, were deprived of adequate information about the drug. Consequently, Plaintiffs were unaware of the connection between their use of Taxotere and their injury of permanent hair loss.

**G. Permanent Alopecia is Devastating for Plaintiffs.**

242. Research indicates that a majority of women consider alopecia the most traumatic side effect of cancer treatment. One study states that 58 percent of women preparing for chemotherapy describe alopecia as the most disturbing anticipated side effect, and that 8 percent of women may choose to forego treatment based on possible alopecia. Although baldness is the most commonly recognized form of alopecia, chemotherapy-related hair loss can extend to eyebrows, eyelashes, arm and leg hair, pubic hair, etc.

243. Women with cancer who experience alopecia, as compared with women with cancer

who do not, report lower self-esteem, poorer body image, and a lower quality of life. Alopecia can be stigmatizing and may result in anger, anxiety, embarrassment, sadness, depression, shame, helplessness, fear, and loss of sense of self. Women with alopecia may experience a loss of sense of femininity, sexuality, attractiveness, self-confidence, and womanhood. Even if hair does grow back, studies have found that these negative thoughts and feelings remain; body image tends not to return to pre-treatment levels.

244. Alopecia also alters how women interact with others and experience social situations. Alopecia symbolizes cancer identity and treatment, even when individuals wear wigs or garments to cover the hair loss. These symbols can heighten an individual's everyday awareness that she has or had cancer.

245. Hair loss alters how women recognize themselves and how others interact with them. Hair is a critical aspect of appearance that can facilitate recognition as female, young, and healthy. By contrast, loss of hair may cause others to categorize individuals as old and unhealthy. As a result, women who suffer from alopecia have a heightened awareness of their appearance during social interactions, and may be treated differently than they were before their hair loss.

246. To cope, many avoid social situations because they are nervous that others will treat them differently. These fears are not unfounded. In one study of cancer survivors, 75 percent of participants reported experiencing silent stares from others that they attributed to their "cancer appearance." Participants also reported that people they knew avoided public contact with them.

247. Hair loss can also increase risk of injury to the body. Nose hair, eyelashes, ear hair, etc. serve important bodily functions and are necessary for the protection against injury to organs critical to human senses. Hair loss in these areas places women at risk of permanent injuries.

248. Even when, unlike here, patients were warned that cancer-related hair loss may occur, cancer patients have reported feeling that they were not given adequate information about how to

manage cancer-related hair loss. This underscores the importance of healthcare providers appreciating the traumatic effect that cancer-related alopecia may have on their patients.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Strict Products Liability – Failure to Warn – Against All Defendants)**

249. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

250. At all relevant times, Defendants were in the business of designing, researching, manufacturing, testing, promoting, marketing, selling, and/or distributing pharmaceutical products, including the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate as hereinabove described that was used by Plaintiffs, or have recently acquired the entities that did the same.

251. The Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate designed, formulated, produced, manufactured, sold, marketed, distributed, supplied and/or placed into the stream of commerce by Defendants failed to provide adequate warnings to users and their healthcare providers, including Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, of the risk of side effects associated with the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, particularly the risk of developing disfiguring, permanent alopecia.

252. As the holder of the Reference Listed Drug ("RLD") for Taxotere, Sanofi supplied the labeling for Winthrop U.S.'s generic version of Taxotere.

253. The Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate designed, formulated, produced, manufactured, sold, marketed, distributed, supplied and/or placed into the stream of commerce by Defendants and ultimately administered to Plaintiffs lacked such warnings when it left Defendants' control.

254. The risks of developing disfiguring, permanent alopecia were known to or reasonably

scientifically knowable by Defendants at the time the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate left Defendants' control.

255. Any warnings actually provided by Defendants did not sufficiently and/or accurately reflect the symptoms, type, scope, severity, and/or duration of these side effects, particularly the risks of developing disfiguring, permanent alopecia.

256. Without adequate warning of these side effects, Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate are not reasonably fit, suitable, or safe for its reasonably anticipated or intended purposes.

257. Plaintiffs were reasonably foreseeable users of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate who used the drug in reasonably anticipated manners.

258. Plaintiffs would not have used Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate had they (and their Physicians) been provided an adequate warning by Defendants of the risk of these side effects.

259. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to warn of the potentially severe adverse effects of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Strict Products Liability for Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)**

260. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

261. Defendants sold the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate that Plaintiffs' healthcare providers prescribed for Plaintiffs and that Plaintiffs used.

262. Defendants were engaged in the business of selling the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for resale, use, or consumption.

263. Defendants misrepresented facts as set forth herein concerning the character or quality of the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate that would be material to potential prescribers and purchasers or users of the product.

264. Defendants' misrepresentations were made to potential prescribers and/or purchasers or users as members of the public at large.

265. As purchasers or users, Plaintiffs and/or their healthcare providers reasonably relied on the misrepresentations.

266. Plaintiffs were persons who would reasonably be expected to use, consume, or be affected by the Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez.

267. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counselling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and

past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Negligence – Against All Defendants)**

268. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

269. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the design, research, formulation, manufacture, production, marketing, testing, supply, promotion, packaging, sale, and/or distribution of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, including a duty to assure that the product would not cause users to suffer unreasonable, disfiguring, and dangerous side effects.

270. Defendants breached these duties when they put Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate into interstate commerce, unreasonably and without adequate and/or proper warning to Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers, a product that Defendants knew or should have known created a high risk of unreasonable, disfiguring, and dangerous side effects.

271. The negligence of Defendants, their agents, servants, and/or employees, included but was not limited to, the following acts and/or omissions:

- (a) Manufacturing, producing, promoting, formulating, creating, and/or designing Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate without thoroughly, adequately, and/or sufficiently testing it—including pre- clinical and clinical testing and post-marketing surveillance—for safety and fitness for use and/or its dangers and risks;
- (b) Marketing Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ healthcare providers, the public, and the medical and healthcare professions without adequately and correctly warning and/or disclosing the existence, severity, and duration of known or knowable side effects, including permanent alopecia;
- (c) Marketing Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ healthcare providers, the public, and the medical

and healthcare professions without providing adequate instructions regarding safety precautions to be observed by users, handlers, and persons who would reasonably and foreseeably come into contact with, and more particularly, use, Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez;

- (d) Advertising and recommending the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez; without sufficient knowledge of its safety profile;
- (e) Representing to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and the medical and healthcare professions that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were superior to other commercially available products designed to treat the same forms of cancer Taxotere was designed to treat, when in fact they were not;
- (f) Designing, manufacturing, producing, and/or assembling Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate in a manner that was dangerous to its users;
- (g) Concealing information from Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, other medical and healthcare professionals, and the FDA that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were unsafe, dangerous, and/or non-conforming with FDA regulations;
- (h) Concealing from and/or misrepresenting information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, other medical and healthcare professionals, and/or the FDA concerning the existence and severity of risks and dangers of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, as compared to other forms of treatment for cancer.; and
- (i) Encouraging the sale of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, either directly or indirectly, orally or in writing, to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers without warning about the need for more comprehensive and regular medical monitoring than usual to ensure early discovery of potentially serious side effects.

272. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate caused unreasonably dangerous side effects, Defendants continued and continue to market, manufacture, distribute, and/or sell Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate to consumers, including Plaintiffs.

273. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers were therefore forced to rely on safety information that did not accurately represent the risks and benefits associated with the use of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate as compared to other products

already commercially available to treat the same types of cancer Taxotere was designed to treat.

274. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers such as Plaintiffs would use their product and would foreseeably suffer injury as a result of Defendants' failure to exercise reasonable care, as set forth above.

275. Defendants' negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' injuries, harms, damages, and losses, in connection with the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, including but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement including permanent and irreversible alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Negligent Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)**

276. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

277. Defendants had a duty to represent to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, and the public in general that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate had been tested and found to be safe and effective for the treatment of various forms of cancer.

278. When warning of safety and risks of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, Defendants negligently represented to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, and the public in general that they had been tested and was found to be safe and/or effective for its indicated use.



279. Defendants concealed their knowledge of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, defects from Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public in general and/or the medical community specifically.

280. Defendants concealed their knowledge of the defects in their products from Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public in general.

281. Defendants misrepresented the novel nature of their product in order to gain a market advantage resulting in billions of dollars in revenues at the expense of vulnerable cancer victims such as Plaintiffs.

282. Defendants made these misrepresentations with the intent of defrauding and deceiving Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public in general, and the medical and healthcare community in particular, and were made with the intent of inducing Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public in general, and the medical community in particular, to recommend, dispense, and/or purchase Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for use in the treatments of various forms of cancer, including, but not limited to, breast cancer.

283. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in their representations of Taxotere while involved in its manufacture, sale, testing, quality assurance, quality control, and/or distribution into interstate commerce, and Defendants negligently misrepresented Taxotere's, Docetaxel Injection's, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate's, and Docefrez's high risks of unreasonable, dangerous side effects.

284. Defendants breached their duty in misrepresenting Taxotere's, Docetaxel Injection's, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate's, and Docefrez's, serious side effects to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, the FDA, and the public in general.

285. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers reasonably relied on Defendants to fulfil their obligations to disclose all facts within their knowledge regarding the serious side effects of

Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez.

286. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counselling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

#### **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **(Fraudulent Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)**

287. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

288. Defendants represented to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, and the public in general that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate had been tested and was found to be safe and effective for the treatment of certain forms of cancer and was free of defects that could and would cause serious side effects, including permanent and irreversible hair loss.

289. Defendants fraudulently omitted from these representations information that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate could and did cause serious side effects, including permanent and irreversible hair loss.

290. These representations were material and false.

291. Defendants made these representations and omissions:

- (a) with knowledge or belief of their falsity, and/or in the case of omissions, with knowledge or belief of falsity of the resulting statements;

- (b) positively and recklessly without knowledge of their truth or falsity;
- (c) with knowledge that they were made without any basis; and/or
- (d) without confidence in the accuracy of the representations or statements resulting from the omissions.

292. Defendants made these false representations with the intention or expectation that Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public in general, and the medical community in particular, would recommend, dispense, and/or purchase Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for use in the treatments of various forms of cancer, including, but not limited to, breast cancer, all of which evidenced a callous, reckless, willful, wanton, and depraved indifference to the health, safety, and welfare of Plaintiffs.

293. At the time Defendants made the aforesaid representations, and, at the time Plaintiffs used Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers were unaware of the falsity of Defendants' representations, statements and/or implications and justifiably and reasonably relied upon Defendants' representations, statements, and implications, believing them to be true.

294. In reliance upon Defendants' representations, Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers were induced to and did use and prescribe Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, which caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and

impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

# **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

## **(Fraudulent Concealment – Against All Defendants)**

295. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

296. At all times during the course of dealing between Defendants and Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, Defendants misrepresented the design characteristics and safety of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for their intended use.

297. Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that its representations were false.

298. In representations made to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, Defendants fraudulently concealed and intentionally omitted the following material information:

- (a) that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were not as safe as other forms of treatment for which they were marketed and sold to cancer patients;
- (b) that the risks of adverse events with Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were higher than those with other forms of treatment for which they were marketed and sold to cancer patients;
- (c) that the risks of adverse events with Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were not adequately tested and/or known by Defendants;
- (d) that Defendants were aware of dangers in Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, in addition to and above and beyond those associated with other forms of treatment for cancer patients;
- (e) that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were defective in that it caused dangerous side effects as well as other severe and permanent health consequences in a much more and significant rate than other forms of treatment for cancer patients;

299. Defendants had a duty to disclose to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers the defective nature of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, including, but not limited to, the heightened risks of disfiguring, permanent alopecia.

300. Defendants had sole access to material facts concerning the defective nature of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate and their propensity to cause serious and dangerous side effects, and therefore cause damage to persons who used the drugs at issue, including Plaintiffs, in particular.

301. Defendants' concealment and omissions of material fact concerning the safety of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were made purposefully, wilfully, wantonly, and/or recklessly to mislead Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers into reliance on the continued use of the drugs and to cause them to purchase, prescribe, and/or dispense Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate and/or use them.

302. Defendants knew that Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers had no way to determine the truth behind Defendants' concealment and omissions, including the material omissions of fact surrounding Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate set forth herein.

303. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers reasonably relied on information revealed by Defendants that negligently, fraudulently, and/or purposefully did not include facts that were concealed and/or omitted by Defendants.

304. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and

past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Fraud and Deceit – Against All Defendants)**

305. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

306. Defendants committed fraud by omission in applying for and gaining patent protection for Taxotere resulting in increased sales and market penetration. This increased market penetration was the proximate cause of Plaintiffs’ exposure to the side effects of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez.

307. Defendants fraudulently claimed superior efficacy over other products designed to treat the same conditions for which Taxotere was designed to treat. These fraudulent representations were the proximate cause of Plaintiffs’ exposure to the side effects of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez.

308. As a result of Defendants’ research and testing, or lack thereof, Defendants intentionally distributed false information, including, but not limited to, assuring Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ healthcare providers and/or the public that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate was safe and effective for use in the treatment of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer.

309. As a result of Defendants’ research and testing, or lack thereof, Defendants intentionally omitted certain results of testing and or research to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ healthcare providers, healthcare professionals, and/or the public.

310. Defendants had a duty when disseminating information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ healthcare providers, and the public to disseminate truthful information.

311. Defendants had a duty when disseminating information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’

healthcare providers, and the public not to deceive Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and/or the public.

312. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public, including, but not limited to, reports, press releases, advertising campaigns, and other forms of media contained material misrepresentations of fact and/or omissions.

313. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Defendants' drug Taxotere was safe and effective for the treatment of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer.

314. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Defendants' drug Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate carried the same risks, hazards, and/or dangers as other forms of treatment for the same conditions for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

315. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Taxotere was not injurious to the health and/or safety of its intended users.

316. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Taxotere was no more injurious to the health and/or safety of its intended users as other forms of cancer treatments for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

317. These representations by Defendants were all false and misleading.

318. Defendants intentionally suppressed, ignored, and disregarded test results not favorable to Defendants and that demonstrated Taxotere was not safe as a means of treatment for certain types of cancer for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

319. Defendants intentionally made material misrepresentations to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs'

healthcare providers, and the public in general, including the medical profession, regarding the safety of Taxotere, specifically, but not limited to, Taxotere not having dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns.

320. Defendants intentionally made material misrepresentations to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public in general, including the medical profession, regarding the safety of Taxotere, specifically, but not limited to, Taxotere being as safe as other products designed to treat the same conditions Taxotere was designed to treat.

321. It was Defendants' intent and purpose in making these false representations to deceive and defraud Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and/or the public and to gain the confidence of Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and/or healthcare professionals to falsely ensure the quality and fitness for use of Taxotere and induce Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public, including the medical profession, to purchase, request, dispense, prescribe, recommend, and/or continue to use Taxotere.

322. Defendants made the aforementioned false claims and false representations with the intent of convincing Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and/or healthcare professionals that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate was fit and safe for use as treatment for certain types of cancer, including breast cancer.

323. Defendants made the aforementioned false claims and false representations with the intent of convincing Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and/or healthcare professionals that Taxotere was fit and safe for use as treatment for certain forms of cancer and did not pose risks, dangers, or hazards above and beyond those identified and/or associated with other forms of treatment for which Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate was designed to treat.

324. Defendants made false claims and false representations in its documents submitted to



Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and healthcare professionals that Taxotere did not present risks related to disfigurement secondary to permanent alopecia.

325. Defendants made false claims and false representations in its documents submitted to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and healthcare professionals that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate did not present health and/or safety risks greater than other forms of treatment for the same conditions Taxotere was designed to treat.

326. Defendants made these and other representations with a pretense of actual knowledge when Defendants had no knowledge of the truth or falsity of these representations, and Defendants made these representations recklessly and without regard to the actual facts.

327. Defendants made these and other representations with the intention of deceiving and defrauding Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers.

328. Defendants made these and other representations in order to induce Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers to rely upon the misrepresentations.

329. Defendants' false misrepresentations caused Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' healthcare providers to purchase, use, rely on, request, dispense, recommend, and/or prescribe Taxotere.

330. Defendants recklessly and intentionally falsely represented the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere to the public at large, and Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers in particular, for the purpose of influencing the marketing of a product Defendants knew was dangerous and defective and/or not as safe as other alternatives, including other forms of treatment for cancer.

331. Defendants wilfully and intentionally failed to disclose, concealed, and/or suppressed the material facts regarding the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns related to Taxotere.

332. Defendants wilfully and intentionally failed to disclose the truth and material facts

related to Taxotere and made false representations with the purpose and design of deceiving and lulling Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers into a sense of security so that Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers would rely on Defendants' representations to purchase, use, dispense, prescribe, and/or recommend Taxotere.

333. Defendants, through their public relations efforts, which included, but were not limited to, public statements and press releases, knew or should have known that the public, including Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, would rely upon the information being disseminated.

334. Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' healthcare providers did in fact rely on and believe Defendants' false representations to be true at the time they were made, and they relied upon Defendants' false representations and superior knowledge of how Taxotere would treat certain forms of cancer for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

335. At the time Defendants' false representations were made, Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' healthcare providers did not know the truth and were not with reasonable diligence able to discover the truth with regard to the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez.

336. Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers did not discover the true facts with respect to Defendants' false representations and the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez, and Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers with reasonable diligence could not have discovered the true facts.

337. Had Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers known the true facts with respect to the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez, Plaintiffs would not have purchased, used, and/or relied on Defendants' drug Taxotere.

338. Defendants' aforementioned conduct constitutes fraud and deceit, and it was

committed and/or perpetrated wilfully, wantonly, and/or purposefully on Plaintiffs.

339. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counselling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

#### **EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **(Breach of Express Warranty – Against Sanofi-Related Entities Only)**

340. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

341. Defendants expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were safe and fit for use for the purposes intended, that they did not produce any dangerous side effects in excess of those risks associated with other forms of treatment for cancer, that the side effects they did produce were accurately reflected in the warnings, and that they was adequately tested.

342. These express warranties became part of the basis of the bargain Defendants made with Plaintiffs.

343. Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers relied on Defendants' express warranties in electing to purchase and use their product.

344. Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate do not conform to Defendants' express warranties, because is the drugs are not safe, were not adequately

tested, and have numerous serious side effects, which are in excess of those risks associated with other forms of treatment and which were not accurately warned about by Defendants.

345. Members of the medical community, including physicians and other healthcare providers, relied upon the representations and warranties of Defendants for use of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate in recommending, prescribing, and/or dispensing the drugs at issue.

346. Defendants knew or should have known that, in fact, their representations and warranties were false, misleading, and untrue.

347. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing breaches of warranty, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

348. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief and judgement against each of the Defendants as appropriate to each cause of action alleged, as follows: compensatory damages and general damages in an amount that will conform to proof at time trial; special damages in an amount within the jurisdiction of this Court and according to proof at the time of trial; loss of earnings and impaired earning capacity according to proof at the time of trial; medical expenses, past and future, according to proof at the time of trial; for past and future mental and emotional distress, according to proof;

damages for loss of care, comfort, society, and companionship in an amount within the jurisdiction of this Court and according to proof; for punitive or exemplary damages according to proof; restitution, disgorgement of profits, and other equitable relief; attorneys' fees; for costs of suit incurred herein; for pre- and post-judgment interest as provided by law; and for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

### **JURY DEMAND**

349. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: October 8, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher L. Coffin

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 8, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court by using the CM/ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record who are CM/ECF participants.

/s/ M. Palmer Lambert  
M. PALMER LAMBERT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

In Re: TAXOTERE (DOCETAXEL)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL NO. 2740

SECTION "H" (5)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:  
ALL CASES

**NOTICE OF SUBMISSION**

TO: ALL COUNSEL OF RECORD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to File Plaintiffs' Third Amended Master Long-Form Complaint and Jury Demand will come before the Court for submission on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

Dated: October 8, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher L. Coffin

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 8, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court by using the CM/ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record who are CM/ECF participants.

/s/ M. Palmer Lambert  
M. PALMER LAMBERT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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IN RE: TAXOTERE (DOCETAXEL)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

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MDL NO. 2740

SECTION “H” (5)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL  
CASES

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HON. JANE TRICHE MILAZZO

**THIRD AMENDED MASTER LONG FORM COMPLAINT  
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL  
(PARTIALLY REDACTED)**

1. COME NOW, Plaintiffs, through the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee, who submit this Third Amended Master Long Form Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial (“Third Amended Master Complaint”). This Third Amended Master Complaint sets forth common allegations of Plaintiffs who were injured as a result of their exposure to brand-name drug products Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docetaxel Injection that were approved under Section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”). These brand-name drug sponsors, manufacturers, labelers, and distributors are Defendants Sanofi S.A., Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi US Services Inc., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC, Sandoz Inc., Accord Healthcare, Inc., McKesson Corporation d/b/a McKesson Packaging (“McKesson”), Hospira Worldwide, LLC f/k/a Hospira Worldwide, Inc., Hospira, Inc., Sun Pharma Global FZE, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc. f/k/a Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories Ltd., Pfizer Inc., Actavis LLC f/k/a Actavis Inc., Actavis Pharma, Inc., and Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (collectively “Defendants”) for damages and such other relief deemed just and proper.

2. This Third Amended Master Complaint is intended to achieve efficiency and economy by presenting certain common allegations and common questions of fact and law that generally pertain

to Plaintiffs adopting this Complaint. Plaintiffs plead all Counts of this Third Amended Master Complaint and Jury Demand in the broadest sense, pursuant to all applicable laws and pursuant to choice of law principles, including the law of the each Plaintiff's home state.

3. This Third Amended Master Complaint does not necessarily include all claims asserted in all the transferred actions to this Court. It is anticipated that individual Plaintiffs will adopt this Third Amended Master Complaint and selected causes of action herein through the use of a separate Short Form Complaint. Any individual facts, jurisdictional allegations, additional legal claims and/or requests for relief of individual Plaintiffs may be set forth as necessary in the Short Form Complaint filed by the respective Plaintiffs. This Third Amended Master Complaint does not constitute a waiver or dismissal of any claims asserted in those individual actions, and no Plaintiff relinquishes the right to amend his or her individual claims to include additional claims as discovery and trials proceed.

### **INTRODUCTION**

4. Taxotere is a chemotherapy drug administered to many who suffer primarily from breast cancer. Brand-name drug sponsors, manufacturers, labelers, and distributors of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, have known for years that these drugs cause permanent hair loss by preventing the regrowth of hair, a now well-documented side effect that for years has been publicized in numerous scientific studies, articles, and presentations. Despite this, these brand-name entities failed to warn patients and healthcare providers of the risk of permanent hair loss and report this risk to the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"). Instead, Defendants hid this devastating side effect.

5. Plaintiffs are women who were diagnosed with breast cancer, underwent chemotherapy using Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and/or Docefrez, and now suffer from permanent hair loss, a side effect for which they were not warned and were wholly unprepared. Had Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers known that permanent

hair loss could result, they would have selected a different treatment option—effective alternatives to these drugs that do not lead to this devastating side effect are used regularly.

6. As a result of this undisclosed side effect, Plaintiffs have struggled to return to normalcy, even after surviving cancer because an integral element of their identities, their hair, never returned. Plaintiffs are stigmatized with the universal cancer signifier—baldness—long after they underwent cancer treatment, and their hair loss acts as a permanent reminder that they are cancer victims. This permanent change has altered Plaintiffs’ self-image, negatively impacted their relationships, and others’ perceptions of them, leading to social isolation and depression even long after fighting cancer.

7. Defendants failed, and some still fail, to adequately warn that permanent or irreversible hair loss is a common side effect of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, and Plaintiffs have been unable to weigh this devastating possibility when deciding among treatment options. Plaintiffs seek recovery for their mental and physical suffering stemming from permanent or irreversible hair loss.

### **THE PARTIES**

#### **A. Plaintiffs**

8. This Third Amended Master Complaint is filed on behalf of all Individual Injured Plaintiffs (“Plaintiffs”) whose claims are subsumed within MDL No. 2740. Plaintiffs in these individual actions have suffered personal injuries as a result of the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez. In addition, and where applicable, this Third Amended Master Complaint is also filed on behalf of Plaintiffs’ spouses, children, parents, decedents, wards and/or heirs, all represented by Plaintiffs’ counsel.

9. Plaintiffs have suffered personal injuries as a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ conduct and misconduct as described herein and in connection with the design,

development, manufacture, testing, packaging, promotion, advertising, marketing, distribution, labeling, warning, and sale of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez.

10. Plaintiffs could not, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, have discovered that their usage of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez resulted in their injuries. In fact, Defendants have yet to acknowledge that these drugs permanently prevent hair regrowth, and Plaintiffs did not suspect, nor did they have reason to suspect that these drugs prevented hair regrowth or the tortious nature of the conduct causing their injuries until a date prior to the filing of these actions, which is less than the applicable limitations period for filing suit.

11. Additionally, Plaintiffs were prevented from discovering this information at an earlier date because: (1) Defendants misrepresented to the public and the medical profession that Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, are free from permanent side effects; (2) Defendants failed to disclose to the public and the medical profession their knowledge of the risk that these drugs could permanently prevent hair regrowth; and (3) Defendants fraudulently concealed facts and information that could have led Plaintiffs to discover the liability of the Defendants.

#### **B. Sanofi-Related Entities**

12. Defendant Sanofi S.A. f/k/a Sanofi Aventis S.A. is the owner and operator of a multinational vertically integrated pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of France with a principal place of business at 54 Rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris, France. Sanofi S.A. formed in 2004 after Sanofi-Synthelabo acquired Aventis Group, including subsidiary Defendant Aventis Pharma, S.A. Sanofi S.A. is engaged in research and development, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing of prescription drugs, including Taxotere. American Depositary Receipts for Sanofi SA are traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

It is the only publicly traded company among the various Sanofi entities named as defendants in the case.

13. Defendant Aventis Pharma S.A. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of France with a principal place of business at 20 Avenue Raymond Aron, 92160 Antony, France. Aventis Pharma S.A. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Sanofi S.A. Defendant Aventis Pharma S.A. is the owner/holder of the patents for Taxotere. Aventis Pharma S.A. previously sought to protect Taxotere patents by filing an action for patent infringement in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware and availing itself of United States law.

14. Upon information and belief, at the direction of Sanofi S.A., Defendant Aventis Pharma S.A. licensed the patents for Taxotere to Defendants Sanofi US Services Inc. and Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC.

15. Defendant Sanofi US Services Inc. f/k/a Sanofi-Aventis U.S. Inc. is a Delaware corporation, with a principal place of business at 55 Corporate Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807. Sanofi US Services Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Sanofi S.A. Defendant Sanofi US Services Inc. engages in research and development, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing of prescription drugs, including Taxotere.

16. Defendant Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC is a Delaware limited liability company, with a principal place of business at 55 Corporate Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807. Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Sanofi S.A., and Sanofi S.A. is Sanofi-Aventis U.S., LLC's sole member. Defendant Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC engages in research and development, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing of prescription drugs, including Taxotere.

17. Defendant Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC d/b/a Winthrop U.S. operates, promotes, markets, sells, distributes generic pharmaceutical products under the name of Winthrop U.S., which is a

business unit and/or division operating within and part of Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC.

18. Since 2006, Defendants Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc. have collectively served as the U.S. operational front for Defendant Sanofi S.A. in the U.S. prescription drug market. Prior to 2006, Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. served as the U.S. operational front for Defendant Sanofi S.A. in the U.S. prescription drug market until Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. merged with Sanofi S.A.

19. Defendant Sanofi S.A. is the alter ego of wholly owned subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi US Services Inc., and Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC; Defendant Sanofi S.A. is using these named subsidiary Defendants as its agents; and/or Defendant Sanofi S.A. and the named subsidiary Defendants are one single integrated enterprise.

20. Defendant Sanofi S.A.'s Executive Vice-President of Pharmaceutical Operations in 2004, Hanspeter Spek, publicly stated in Sanofi S.A.'s Annual Report that the company was committed to growing its international presence by focusing on the United States, noting that "no pharmaceutical firm can call itself international unless it has achieved success and made its mark [in the United States]."

21. According to Mr. Spek, Defendant Sanofi S.A. was well-suited to handle the complexities of the U.S. pharmaceutical market, explaining:

When you look at current trends in the U.S., you see a form of regionalization between different states beginning to emerge. That's a sign that the U.S. market is also becoming more complex in response to the country's economic constraints, pressure on prices, and so on. These are factors that we know and are used to dealing with; we have the experience and the knowhow to cope with them in all serenity.

22. In fact, Defendant Sanofi S.A. has provided the financial resources and human capital, installing "a management team made up of a perfect mix of U.S. and European talents" and controlling the operations of subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc. by providing financing, Sanofi S.A.'s unique manufacturing "know-how," direction



of sales force, and management of operational risks to subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc.

23. Defendant Sanofi S.A. represents itself as a global company with over 110,000 employees in more than 100 countries, including approximately 17,000 employees in the United States. Sanofi S.A. touts a global sales force of tens of thousands of representatives, noting that these sales representatives, including those in the United States, “embody the [Sanofi] Group’s values on a day-to-day basis.”

24. In addition, Defendant Sanofi S.A. manages the cash surpluses of subsidiary Defendants Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc., including controlling and transferring equity holdings among Sanofi S.A.’s subsidiaries. Sanofi S.A. includes the earnings of its subsidiaries in its annual reports, noting that 36.2% of its annual sales come from the United States.

25. Sanofi S.A. also represents that it has 17 manufacturing sites, 2 development centers, and 8 distribution hubs in the United States, located in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Washington, and Washington, D.C.

26. Furthermore, Defendant Sanofi S.A. formulates and coordinates the global strategy for Sanofi business and maintains central corporate policies regarding Sanofi subsidiaries, including subsidiary Defendants named herein, under the general guidance of the Sanofi group control. For example, Sanofi S.A. has a corporate tax policy overseen by Sanofi S.A.’s Tax Department.

27. Employees of Sanofi S.A. and its subsidiaries maintain reporting relationships that are not defined by legal, corporate relationships, but in fact cross corporate lines. For example, the U.S. heads of Human Resources, Communications, and Public Affairs are not affiliated with any specific U.S. subsidiary but serve as heads of Sanofi’s North American organizations, overseeing strategies

and activities for the entire North American region. For Human Resources specifically, Defendant Sanofi S.A. has adopted the “One Sanofi, One HR” concept to harmonize and align human resources practices across of Sanofi S.A.’s business activities, blurring corporate lines. In 2013, Sanofi S.A. launched the Short Term Work Assignment Program (“SWAP”), an employee exchange program that features six-month job exchanges between Sanofi employees in mature and emerging markets.

28. Defendant Sanofi S.A. has a number of policies for employee benefits and salaries that cross corporate lines. In 2001, Sanofi launched the “essential protection” project. This project provided all employees, across corporate lines, with coverage against unexpected events: illness, death benefit, and short and long term disability. This project also provided for compulsory pensions for all employees. Sanofi S.A. also has a compensation policy that all Sanofi subsidiaries have to follow. This policy aims to offer all employees in all subsidiaries compensation that is superior to the average salary for the pharmaceutical market. Each subsidiary’s employee benefits and salary program is subject to a preliminary approval procedure by Sanofi S.A. This means that Sanofi S.A. dictates the salary levels and benefits that must be paid to employees of its subsidiaries. Defendant Sanofi S.A. also controls research and development activities for Defendants Sanofi- Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc. by defining priorities, coordinating work, and obtaining the industrial property rights under Sanofi S.A.’s name and at Sanofi S.A.’s own expense. As mentioned above, Sanofi has a global Research & Development organization that works closely with Sanofi’s Senior Leadership Team.

29. On November 6, 2015, Sanofi S.A. CEO Oliver Brandicourt presented a “strategic roadmap,” a plan to restructure the company and simplify the organizational structure. Before the restructuring, Research & Development, Industrial Affairs, Finance, Human Resources, Business Development & Strategy, External Affairs, Information Systems, Medical, Legal, Compliance, & Procurement were globalized functions. After the restructuring, Sanofi S.A. introduced plans to move further to a Global Business Unit organization and divide its products into five globalized units:

Diabetes and Cardiovascular, General Medicines and Emerging Markets, Specialty Care, Vaccines, and Animal Health. The restructuring additionally included plans to reshape Sanofi's global network of manufacturing plants. As a result of the restructuring Sanofi S.A. announced it would be cutting about 20 percent of its U.S. staff from its diabetes and cardiovascular unit alone with more U.S. staff cuts likely to come in the future.

30. Defendants Sanofi S.A. and Aventis Pharma S.A., through Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc., marketed Taxotere throughout the United States by providing marketing information regarding Taxotere to health care providers and similarly soliciting purchases for the drug.

31. Defendants Sanofi S.A. and Aventis Pharma S.A. expected that Taxotere would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States. In fact, Defendants Sanofi S.A. and Aventis Pharma S.A., through Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC and Sanofi US Services Inc., distributed and sold Taxotere to healthcare providers and patients throughout the United States.

**C. Other Brand Name Drug Sponsors, Manufacturers, Labelers, and Distributors**

32. In addition to the Sanofi-related entities, other brand-name entities obtained approval to market new drugs with the proprietary names Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate. Their new drug applications were approved under Section 505(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act ("FDCA"), codified at 21 U.S.C. § 355(b)(2).

33. A 505(b)(2) application is a subset of NDA, and it is subject to the NDA approval requirements set out in section 505(b) and (c) of the FDCA. As such, it must satisfy the requirements for safety and effectiveness information.

34. A 505(b)(2) application contains full reports of investigations of safety and effectiveness, where at least some of the information required for approval comes from studies not conducted by or for the applicant and for which the applicant has not obtained a right of reference.

35. Accordingly, a 505(b)(2) applicant may rely on the findings of safety and effectiveness of a listed drug to the extent the new product seeking approval and the listed drug are the same. Otherwise, to the extent the products are different, a 505(b)(2) application, like a 505(b)(1) application, must include sufficient data to demonstrate that the product with those different aspects meets the statutory approval standard for safety and effectiveness.

36. A drug approved under the 505(b)(2) approval pathway is not a generic copy of a brand-name drug. Section 505(b)(2) is not an appropriate approval pathway for an application for a duplicate drug eligible for approval under section 505(j) of the FDCA (the Abbreviated New Drug Application process).

***1. Sandoz***

37. Defendant Sandoz Inc. (“Sandoz”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado with a principal place of business at 100 College Road West, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

38. Defendant Sandoz has transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

39. Defendant Sandoz has derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

40. At all relevant times, Defendant Sandoz has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under New Drug Application (“NDA”) #201525.

41. The proprietary name for Defendant Sandoz’s branded drug is Docetaxel Injection.

42. Defendant Sandoz expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

43. Defendant Sandoz filed NDA application #201525 on September 16, 2010, under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness

for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

44. Sandoz's formulation of Docetaxel Injection, however, is different from Taxotere in that it contains less polysorbate 80 and more 96 percent ethanol. Also, it contains polyethylene glycol 300 as a solubizer and anhydrous citric acid for pH adjustment.

45. Sandoz received FDA approval for NDA #201525 on June 29, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States on August 15, 2011.

46. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: "Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration." It also stated that one of the "most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection" is "hair loss." Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

47. Since approval, Sandoz has submitted multiple Changes Being Effected Supplemental New Drug Applications ("CBE sNDA") to update labeling. It submitted a CBE sNDA (S-002) on July 29, 2011 that was approved on March 15, 2012, and a CBE sNDA (S-003) on August 15, 2013 that was approved on April 23, 2014. Neither submission, however, updated labeling concerning hair loss.

48. On October 21, 2016, the FDA approved Sandoz's CBE sNDA, submitted on March 7, 2016, "to include information on permanent or irreversible alopecia to Section 6.2 (Post-marketing Experience), Section 17 (Patient Counseling Information) of the Package Insert, and the Patient Package Insert (PPI) labeling."

49. As of December 2015, under "Post-Marketing Experiences," the labeling states: "Cases of permanent alopecia have been reported." Its Patient Counseling Information states that "side effects such as [...] hair loss (cases of permanent hair loss have been reported) are associated with docetaxel administration." Its patient information also states that the "most common side effects" include "hair loss, in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed."

50. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss, however, in the Warnings and Precautions or Adverse Reactions portions of its labeling.

**2. *Accord Healthcare & McKesson***

51. Defendant Accord Healthcare, Inc. (“Accord”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina with a principal place of business at 1009 Slater Road, Suite 210-B, Durham, North Carolina 27703.

52. Defendant McKesson Corporation d/b/a McKesson Packaging (“McKesson”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at One Post Street, San Francisco, California 94104.

53. Defendants Accord and McKesson have transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

54. Defendants Accord and McKesson have derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

55. At all relevant times, Defendant Accord has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #201195. Defendant Accord expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

56. At all relevant times, Defendant McKesson has been in the business of packaging and distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #201195. Defendant McKesson expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

57. Defendant Accord filed NDA #201195 on December 7, 2010, under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

58. Accord's two-vial formulation, however, was different from Taxotere's two-vial formulation in that it added new excipients citric acid (as a pH adjusting agent) and polyethylene glycol (PEG 400) (added to the diluent vial at 13 percent w/v). A one-vial formulation by Accord was later added in the same concentration and doses as the one-vial Taxotere, with the addition of a 160 mg / 8 mL "multiple dose" form.

59. Accord received FDA approval for NDA #201195 on June 8, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States on August 15, 2011.

60. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: "Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration." It also stated that one of the "most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection" is "hair loss." Neither statement refers to permanent hair loss.

61. On November 14, 2013, Accord submitted a CBE sNDA (S-006) that was unrelated to hair loss. It was approved on July 3, 2014. Prior to that, Accord had also submitted a Manufacturing sNDA (S-004) that, upon information and belief, resulted in various labeling changes on or before April 5, 2013, which did not relate to hair loss.

62. Accord submitted a CBE sNDA (S-009) that was approved on July 26, 2016. As a result, the current label states that "[c]ases of permanent alopecia have been reported." Patient Counseling Information directs: "Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss (cases of permanent hair loss have been reported) are associated with docetaxel administration." The Patient Information section now reads, in part: "The most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection include [...] hair loss, in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known), permanent hair loss has been observed."

63. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss, however, in the Warnings and Precautions or Adverse Reactions portions of its labeling.

### 3. *Hospira Entities*

64. Defendant Hospira, Inc. is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 275 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

65. Defendant Hospira Worldwide, LLC f/k/a Hospira Worldwide, Inc. is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 275 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

66. Defendants Hospira, Inc. and Hospira Worldwide, LLC f/k/a Hospira Worldwide, Inc. (collectively “Hospira”) have transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

67. Hospira has derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

68. At all relevant times, Hospira has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #022234. Hospira expected that Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

69. Hospira filed NDA #022234 on July 11, 2007 under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

70. Hospira’s formulation, however, is different from Taxotere’s formulation in several ways. First, upon the filing of its NDA in 2007, its pre-mixed, one-vial solution differed from Taxotere’s original two-vial formulation, which required initial dilution. (Taxotere’s one-vial, “ready-to-use” formulation was not FDA approved until 2010.) Second, it is packaged at a concentration of 10 mg / mL, which is one-fourth of the strength of two-vial Taxotere and one-half the strength of one-vial Taxotere. Third, Hospira’s 10 mg / mL formulation was marketed in a 160 mg vial, in



addition to 20 mg and 80 mg vials. Fourth, whereas Taxotere labels all its dosage forms as “single-use,” Hospira’s 80 mg and 160 mg formulations are marketed as “multi-use.” Fifth, unlike Taxotere, Hospira’s Docetaxel Injection contains both citric acid and polyethylene glycol 300.

71. Hospira received FDA approval for NDA #022234 on March 8, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States on March 17, 2011.

72. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of Docetaxel Injection” is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

73. On September 11, 2013, Hospira submitted a “Prior Approval” sNDA (S-003) adding certain indications consistent with Taxotere’s package insert at the time. Hospira also included in this sNDA new safety information concerning ethanol intoxication, which the FDA had requested Hospira add by letter of April 21, 2014. The FDA approved this sNDA on July 10, 2014. This update, the most recent revision, did not concern hair loss.

74. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss in its labeling.

#### ***4. Sun Pharma Entities***

75. Defendant Sun Pharma Global FZE (“Sun Pharma Global”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the Emirate of Sharjah with a principal place of business at Executive Suite #43, Block &, SAIF Zone, P.O. Box 122304, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

76. Defendant Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc. f/k/a Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd. (“Sun Pharma”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of New Jersey with a principal mailing address of 270 Prospect Plains Road Cranbury, NJ 08512 United States.

77. Defendants Sun Pharma Global has transacted and conducted business throughout the United States, on its own behalf and through its agent and distributor Defendant Sun Pharma

78. Defendants Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma have derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

79. At all relevant times, Defendants Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma have been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docefrez, approved by the FDA under NDA #022534. Defendants Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma expected that Docefrez would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

80. Defendant Sun Pharma Global filed NDA #022534 on April 23, 2009 under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA's findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

81. Sun Pharma Global's two-vial docetaxel formulation, however, is different from Taxotere's two-vial formulation for several reasons. First, as opposed to Taxotere's active ingredient vial, which solution is viscous, Sun Pharma Global's active ingredient vial contains a powder. Second, and relatedly, Sun Pharma Global's polysorbate 80 is found in the diluent vial. Third, Sun Pharma Global's diluent vial contains a higher percentage of ethanol (35.4 percent) than Taxotere's (13 percent). Fourth, Sun Pharma Global's concentration is two times that of the two-vial Taxotere.

82. Sun Pharma Global received FDA approval for NDA #022534 on May 3, 2011 and began marketing the drug in the United States in May 2011.

83. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: "Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration." It also stated that one of the "most common side effects of" the drug is "hair loss."

Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

84. Sun Pharma Global submitted, through its agent Sun Pharma, a CBE sNDA (S-002) to the FDA on July 28, 2011, for a label change that was approved on July 13, 2012. It also submitted a “Prior Approval” sNDA (S-004) for a label change through its agent Sun Pharma on May 22, 2014, which was approved on October 30, 2014. Neither change related to hair loss.

85. Sun Pharma Global and Sun Pharma ceased marketing Docefrez in November 2015, and at no time has the labeling for Docefrez referred to permanent or irreversible hair loss.

### ***5. Pfizer***

86. Defendant Pfizer Inc. (“Pfizer”) is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 235 E 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017.

87. Defendant Pfizer has transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

88. Defendant Pfizer has derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

89. At all relevant times, Pfizer has been in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection approved by the FDA under NDA #202356. Pfizer expected that its Docetaxel Injection would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

90. Pfizer filed NDA #202356 on September 13, 2013, under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

91. Pfizer’s one-vial formulation, however, was different from Taxotere’s one-vial formulation in that it added 130 mg / 13 mL and 200 mg / 20 mL dosage forms. Further, ethanol and propylene glycol were added as excipients in amounts greater than in Taxotere.

92. Pfizer received FDA approval for NDA #202356 on March 13, 2014 and began marketing the drug in the United States on June 23, 2014.

93. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of” the drug is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

94. Pfizer stopped marketing the 200 mg / 20 mL dosing of its Docetaxel Injection on October 31, 2016. In addition, Pfizer stopped marketing the 20 mg / 2 mL dosing and the 80 mg / 8 L dosing of its Docetaxel Injection on December 31, 2016.

95. Upon information and belief, Pfizer continues to market that 130 mg / 13 mL dosing of its Docetaxel Injection.

96. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss in its labeling.

#### **6. *Actavis Entities***

97. Defendant Actavis Inc., now known as Actavis LLC, is a pharmaceutical limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 60 Columbia Road, Building B, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 and 400 Interpace Parkway, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054.

98. Defendant Actavis Pharma Inc. is a pharmaceutical company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business at 400 Interpace Parkway, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054. In 2016, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. acquired Defendant Actavis Pharma Inc. Prior to 2016, Actavis Pharma Inc. was a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Actavis LLC f/k/a Actavis Inc.

99. Defendant Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Sagent”) is incorporated under the laws of Delaware and maintains a principal place of business at 1901 N. Roselle Road, Ste. 700, Schaumburg,

IL 60195.

100. Defendants Actavis LLC f/k/a Actavis Inc. and Actavis Pharma Inc. (collectively “Actavis”) and Sagent transacted and conducted business throughout the United States.

101. Actavis and Sagent derived substantial revenue from goods and products designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, and distributed throughout the United States.

102. At all relevant times, Actavis and Sagent was in the business of designing, testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, marketing, promoting, selling and/or distributing Docetaxel Injection Concentrate approved by the FDA under NDA #203551. Actavis and Sagent expected that Docetaxel Injection Concentrate would be sold, purchased, and used throughout the United States.

103. Actavis filed NDA #203551 on March 14, 2012 under Section 505(b)(2). Its application relied for its approval on FDA’s findings of safety and effectiveness for the reference listed drug Taxotere.

104. Actavis and Sagent’s one-vial formulation, however, was different from Taxotere’s one-vial formulation because it is offered at an additional 140 mg dosage form, contains excipients citric acid and Kollidor 12 PF (Povidone k12), and uses reduced levels of polysorbate 80. After Actavis’ initial docetaxel approval, a 160 mg dosage form was also introduced.

105. Actavis received FDA approval for NDA #203551 on April 12, 2013 and began marketing these dosage forms on July 1, 2013.

106. When the drug was approved, a portion of the Patient Counseling Information read as follows: “Explain to patients that side effects such as [...] hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” It also stated that one of the “most common side effects of” the drug is “hair loss.” Neither of these statements refer to permanent hair loss.

107. Actavis submitted a CBE sNDA (S-001) on May 14, 2013, which was approved on November 4, 2013. Actavis also submitted a “Prior Approval” sNDA (S-002) on March 21, 2014,

which was approved on September 17, 2014. Neither resulting label change related to hair loss.

108. There is no mention of the risk of permanent or irreversible hair loss in its labeling.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

109. Federal subject-matter jurisdiction in the constituent actions is based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Plaintiffs allege the existence of subject-matter jurisdiction, and absent objection, there is complete diversity among Plaintiffs and Defendants and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

110. A substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' causes of action occurred in the federal judicial district identified in the Short Form Complaint. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a), venue is proper there.

111. Pursuant to the Transfer Orders of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, venue in actions sharing common questions with the initially transferred actions is proper in this district for coordinated pre-trial proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407.

112. Defendants have significant contacts with the federal judicial district identified in the Short Form Complaint such that they are subject to the personal jurisdiction of the court in that district.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **A. Development, Approval, and Labeling Changes for Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez**

113. Taxotere is a drug used in the treatment of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer, and is a part of a family of cytotoxic drugs referred to as taxanes.

114. Taxanes are derived from yew trees, and unlike other cytotoxic drugs, taxanes inhibit the multiplication of cancer cells by over-stabilizing the structure of a cancer cell, which prevents the cell from breaking down and reorganizing for cell reproduction. They are widely used as chemotherapy agents.

115. The development of taxanes began in the 1960s. Bristol-Myers Squibb developed, manufactured, and distributed the first commercially available taxane in the United States, known as

Taxol (paclitaxel).

116. Taxol is the main competitor drug to Taxotere, and has been on the market since 1993.

117. Both docetaxel (Taxotere) and paclitaxel (Taxol) disrupt the microtubular network in cells that is essential for mitotic and interphase cellular function in the cell multiplication process.

118. Taxotere began as a two-vial product. One vial is called a concentrate, and it contains docetaxel, along with polysorbate 80 and residual amounts of ethanol. The other vial is a diluent, containing water and ethanol.

119. The concentrate vial and the diluent vial are combined to form a “premix.” A premix can be added to an intravenous bag to make a prefusion.

120. Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez are not purchased by patients at a pharmacy; rather, patients use of these drugs occurs via administration through injection and/or intravenously at a physician’s office or medical treatment facility.

121. In the 1980s scientists at Rhône-Poulenc Rorer S.A., Defendant Sanofi S.A.’s predecessor-in-interest, began developing Taxotere with the intention of making a more potent taxane. Since that time, Defendants Sanofi S.A., Aventis Pharma S.A., Sanofi US Services Inc., Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC, and their affiliates and predecessors-in-interest (collectively “Sanofi”) have controlled the development and been the owner, holder, or assignee of the patents related to Taxotere.

122. Phase I clinical testing of Taxotere began in 1990 (called the “TAX 001” study) and continued until 1992. Sanofi reported the results of clinical testing in May 1994.

123. Soon thereafter, on July 27, 1994, Sanofi applied for FDA approval for Taxotere under NDA #20449. The FDA’s Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee panel unanimously denied approval of the drug, requesting more data on toxicity, side effects, and phase III test results.

124. After additional clinical testing, the FDA approved Taxotere in May 14, 1996 for limited use—namely, for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer

that had either (1) progressed during anthracycline-based therapy or (2) relapsed during anthracycline-based adjuvant therapy.

125. The label approved for Taxotere for this indication reflected the medical community's understanding that temporary hair loss is commonly associated with chemotherapy drugs and provided no information about the risk of permanent alopecia.

126. In fact, the clinical trial sponsored by Sanofi to support initial approval did not evaluate alopecia as a long-term side-effect of Taxotere.

127. After the initial approval, Sanofi sought and received FDA approval for additional indications. Based on self-sponsored clinical trials, Sanofi claimed Taxotere's superiority over competing chemotherapy products approved for breast cancer treatment, including claiming superior efficacy over the lower potency paclitaxel (Taxol), its primary competitor.

128. On June 22, 1998, the FDA approved a slightly broader indication for Taxotere that extended its use to patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer as treatment after "failure of prior chemotherapy."

129. That same year, Sanofi obtained FDA approval in December 1999 for use of Taxotere in treating "locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer after failure of prior platinum-based chemotherapy."

130. As with all prior FDA-approved indications for Taxotere, the drug was approved at this time, and until late 2002, only as a second-line of treatment, meaning that Sanofi was prohibited from promoting Taxotere for use in patients who had not undergone and failed a specified first-line of treatment.

131. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in November 2002 for use of Taxotere "in combination with cisplatin for the treatment of patients with unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer who have not previously received chemotherapy for this condition."



132. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in May 2004 for use of Taxotere “in combination with prednisone as a treatment for patients with androgen independent (hormone refractory) metastatic prostate cancer.”

133. Also that year, Sanofi obtained FDA approval in August 2004 for use of Taxotere “in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide for the adjuvant treatment of patients with operable node-positive breast cancer.”

134. In March 2006, Sanofi obtained FDA approval for use of Taxotere “in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil for the treatment of patients with advanced gastric adenocarcinoma, including adenocarcinoma of the gastroesophageal junction, who have not received prior chemotherapy for advanced disease.”

135. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in October 2006 for use of Taxotere “in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil for the induction treatment of patients with inoperable locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN).” In September 2007, FDA approved a broader SCCHN indication that removed the condition of inoperability.

136. Sanofi obtained FDA approval in May 2010 to add language related to pediatric safety and efficacy, including: “The overall safety profile of TAXOTERE in pediatric patients receiving monotherapy or TCF was consistent with the known safety profile for adults.” Additional changes to this label included a number of edits described by Sanofi as “housekeeping” that, among other things, deleted the phrase “hair generally grows back” and added “most common side effects of TAXOTERE include: [...] hair loss” to the “Patient Information” section of the label. As with previous labels, the May 2010 label provides no information about irreversible or permanent hair loss.

137. On March 5, 2015, Sanofi conducted an audit of its U.S. product labels, finding that the U.S. label for Taxotere did not include the required safety information, including information about persisting alopecia. Sanofi determined this information should have been added to the U.S.

label in 2011.

138. Shortly thereafter, on March 23, 2015, FDA requested information from Sanofi regarding instances of permanent alopecia. On April 8, 2015, Sanofi issued its response to FDA, identifying that out of 2118 cases of reported alopecia from Taxotere patients, 89 (4.2%) appeared to be permanent.

139. In response, FDA requested on October 5, 2015 that Sanofi provide any additional information on permanent or irreversible alopecia and amend the Taxotere label to identify permanent alopecia in the “Adverse Reactions” section of the label.

140. On November 11, 2015, Sanofi issued a Final Clinical Overview of Permanent Alopecia, finding a causal association between Taxotere and permanent alopecia. Sanofi then submitted a CBE sNDA on November 24, 2015 adding the language “cases of permanent alopecia have been reported” to the “Adverse Reactions” and “Patient Counseling Information” sections of the label. Sanofi also made changes to the “Patient Information” section of the label adding that the most common side effects of TAXOTERE include “hair loss: in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed.” The FDA approved Sanofi’s sNDA on December 11, 2015.

141. On April 11, 2018, Sanofi submitted a Prior Approval sNDA, request that the Taxotere label be updated to identify adverse events occurring at the conclusion of the follow-up period in TAX 316 in 2010. Among the adverse events identified by Sanofi included 29 patients who had alopecia ongoing at a median follow-up of 10-years. FDA approved Sanofi’s proposed label change on October 5, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

## **B. Defendants’ Duties Under the FDCA and State Law**

142. The primary responsibility for timely communicating complete, accurate and current

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/appletter/2018/020449Orig1s079ltr.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/appletter/2018/020449Orig1s079ltr.pdf)

safety and efficacy information related to prescription drugs rests with NDA holders/drug sponsors (such as manufacturers or labelers) and their assigns or agents; they have superior, and in many cases exclusive, access to the relevant safety and efficacy information, including post- market complaints and data.

143. To fulfill their essential responsibilities, these entities must vigilantly monitor all reasonably available information. They must closely evaluate the post-market clinical experience of their drugs and timely provide updated safety and efficacy information to the healthcare community and to consumers.

144. When monitoring and reporting adverse events, as required by both federal regulations and state law, time is of the essence. The purpose of monitoring a product's post- market experience is to detect potential safety signals that could indicate to drug sponsors and the medical community that a public safety problem exists. If, for example, a manufacturer were to delay in reporting post-market information, that delay could mean that researchers, FDA, and the medical community are years behind in identifying a public safety issue associated with the drug. In the meantime, more patients are harmed by using the product without knowing, understanding, and accepting its true risks. This is why drug sponsors must not only completely and accurately monitor, investigate and report post-market experiences, but they must also report the data in a timely fashion.

145. Because complete information about the safety of a drug cannot be known at the time of approval, and because the true picture of a product's safety profile emerges over time because of use by patients, it is a central premise of federal drug regulation that the NDA holders and their assigns or agents—not the FDA—bear responsibility for the content of its label at all times. Consequently, NDA holders are primarily responsible for crafting an adequate label and ensuring that warnings remain adequate as long as the drug is on the market.

146. A drug is “misbranded” in violation of the FDCA when its labeling is false and

misleading, or does not provide adequate directions for use and adequate warnings. See 21 U.S.C. §§ 321(n); 331(a), (b), (k); 352(a), (f). A drug’s labeling satisfies federal requirements if it gives physicians and pharmacists sufficient information—including indications for use and “any relevant hazards, contraindications, side effects, and precautions”—to allow those professionals “to use the drug safely and for the purposes for which it is intended.” 21 C.F.R. § 201.100(c)(1).

147. As part of their responsibility to monitor post-market clinical experiences with the drug and provide updated safety and efficacy information to the healthcare community and to consumers, each approved NDA applicant, whether under 505(b)(1) or (2), “must promptly review all adverse drug experience information obtained or otherwise received by the applicant from any source, foreign or domestic, including information derived from commercial marketing experience, post marketing clinical investigations, post marketing epidemiological/surveillance studies, reports in the scientific literature, and unpublished scientific papers.” 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(b). Any report of a “serious and unexpected” drug experience, whether foreign or domestic, must be reported to the FDA within 15 days and must be promptly investigated by the manufacturer. 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(c)(1)(i-ii). Most other adverse event reports must be submitted quarterly for three years after the application is approved and annually thereafter. 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(c)(2)(i). These periodic reports must include a “history of actions taken since the last report because of adverse drug experiences (for example, labeling changes or studies initiated).” 21 C.F.R. § 314.80(c)(2)(ii).

148. Federal law requires labeling to be updated as information accumulates: “labeling must be revised to include a warning about a clinically significant hazard as soon as there is reasonable evidence of a causal association with a drug; a causal relationship need not have been definitely established.” 21 C.F.R. § 201.57(c)(6)(i). Thus, for example, drug manufacturers must warn of an adverse effect where there is “some basis to believe there is a causal relationship between the drug and the occurrence of the adverse event.” 21 C.F.R. § 201.57(c)(7).

149. All changes to drug labeling require FDA assent. 21 C.F.R. § 314.70(b)(2)(v)(A). Brand-name drug sponsors, including those whose drugs were approved under Section 505(b)(2), may seek to change their approved labels by filing a supplemental application. 21 C.F.R. § 314.70.

150. One regulation, the “Changes Being Effected” (CBE) regulation, permits a manufacturer to unilaterally change a drug label to reflect “newly acquired information,” subject to later FDA review and approval. 21 C.F.R. § 314.70(c)(6)(iii). Newly acquired information includes “new analyses of previously submitted data.” 21 C.F.R. § 314.3(b). Thus, for instance, if a drug sponsor were to determine that a warning were insufficient based on a new analysis of previously existing data, it could submit a CBE and change its labeling.

151. The longer a drug sponsor delays updating its labeling so that it reflects current safety information, the more likely it is that medical professionals will continue to prescribe drugs without advising patients of harmful side effects, and the more likely it is that patients will suffer harmful side effects without the opportunity to evaluate risks for themselves.

**C. Defendants Knew that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate May Cause Permanent Alopecia.**

152. In 1997, Sanofi initiated TAX 316, a self-sponsored clinical trial comparing the effects of a regimen of fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“FAC”) with a regimen of docetaxel, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“TAC”) in patients with operable node-positive breast cancer. A total of 1040 patients from 112 centers participated in TAX 316 with 744 patients receiving TAC and 736 receiving FAC. In 2004, an interim analysis of TAX 316’s 55-month median follow-up data demonstrated that 3.2% of patients who took Taxotere had persistent alopecia.

153. Beginning in 1998, Sanofi sponsored a trial entitled GEICAM 9805. It was initiated to compare the effects of a regimen of fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“FAC”) with a regimen of docetaxel, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (“TAC”) in patients with high- risk, node-negative breast cancer. Between June 1999 and March 2003, a total of 1060 patients from 55

centers were randomly assigned to receive either TAC or FAC. By 2005, it knew that the GEICAM 9805 study demonstrated that 9.2 percent of patients who took Taxotere had persistent alopecia.

154. In March 2006, Sanofi's pharmacovigilance department received an inquiry from a physician about the reversibility of alopecia following Taxotere treatment, noting that a patient had been experiencing alopecia since 2004. In response, Sanofi's Global Safety Officer for Taxotere internally acknowledged that cases of irreversible alopecia had occurred during Sanofi's clinical trials for Taxotere and that the medical literature might contain additional reports of irreversible alopecia. Despite this, Sanofi's Global Safety Officer advised against doing a literature search on the topic of irreversible alopecia and Taxotere. In addition, Sanofi withheld this information from the Taxotere label and concealed it from the medical community and consumers, including Plaintiffs.

155. In December 2006, an oncologist from Denver, Colorado, Dr. Scot Sedlacek, presented a study entitled "Persistent significant alopecia (PSA) from adjuvant docetaxel after doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide (AC) chemotherapy in women with breast cancer." Dr. Sedlacek tracked patients in three groups: Group A (doxorubicin regimen without a taxane); Group B (doxorubicin plus paclitaxel) and Group C (doxorubicin plus docetaxel). No women in Group A or Group B experienced persistent significant alopecia, but 6.3 percent of those in Group C did. Dr. Sedlacek concluded "that when docetaxel is administered after 4 doses of AC, there is a small but significant possibility of poor hair regrowth lasting up to 7 years. Such an emotionally devastating long term toxicity from this combination must be taken into account when deciding on adjuvant chemotherapy programs in women who likely will be cured of their breast cancer."

156. On November 21, 2008, Sanofi responded to an inquiry from a patient in the United Kingdom concerning Taxotere and the incidence of permanent alopecia. That letter acknowledged that "one reference of non-reversible alopecia" had been identified. Its letter cited a paper published in the journal of Clinical Oncology for the proposition that "clinical studies ... showed one case of

non-reversible alopecia at the end of the study.” The letter also cited another paper from the New England Journal of Medicine, which stated that “studies involving Taxotere in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide observed alopecia to be ongoing at the median follow-up time of 55 months in 3 percent of patients at the end of the chemotherapy.”

157. In 2009, the British Journal of Dermatology published an article entitled “Irreversible and severe alopecia following docetaxel or paclitaxel cytotoxic therapy for breast cancer.” That article reported a case in which a 58-year-old woman “developed diffuse and irreversible alopecia 7-years ago, after being treated with six cycles of docetaxel ... every 3 weeks for a local occurrence.” She did not have alopecia before administration of the chemotherapy. The article concluded “the irreversibility can be attributed only to the cytotoxic effect of docetaxel.”

158. By early 2010, Sanofi had received reports from hundreds of women describing their permanent hair loss following treatment with Taxotere. Despite this fact, Sanofi withheld this information from the label and concealed it from the medical community and consumers, including Plaintiffs.

159. On March 5, 2010, The Globe and Mail, a Canadian newspaper, published an article entitled “Women who took chemo drug say they weren’t warned of permanent hair loss.” The article explained: “Women who took a drug to fight breast cancer say they were never warned of a side effect—permanent hair loss—that left them looking sick long after they were treated for the disease.” The article described this permanent hair loss as a “lasting side effect of the chemotherapy drug Taxotere, in combination with other drugs.” The article included sufferers from Montreal, Canada; Brittany, France; and Oklahoma who had been treated with Taxotere. The article explained that the “side effect of persistent alopecia is suffered by about 3 percent of patients who take Taxotere with other chemotherapy drugs, according to the manufacturer’s own studies,” but that a “different study suggests that the incidence of persistent alopecia could be as high as 6 percent.”

160. The Globe and Mail article also cited medical oncologist Dr. Hugues Bourgeois of Le Mans, France, “who presented research on 82 patients with persistent alopecia at the San Antonio Breast Cancer symposium this winter.” Dr. Bourgeois described the choice he gives his patients—twelve cycles of Taxol or four cycles of Taxotere, where the risk of hair loss is higher. According to Dr. Bourgeois, most choose Taxol, which Dr. Bourgeois said “works just as well on breast cancer.”

161. On March 6, 2010, CBS News published an article entitled “Sanofi’s Latest Challenge: Women Who Say Its Chemotherapy Left Them Permanently Bald.” The article described a group of women who called themselves “Taxotears” and encouraged women who have lost all their hair to report the adverse events to Sanofi and drug watchdog authorities. It also noted that “Taxotere’s official prescribing information ... makes no mention of permanent alopecia,” and that “small studies suggest that as many as 6.3 percent of patients lose all their hair forever.”

162. The CBS News article also mentioned that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the United Kingdom noted that “it was aware of one study in which 22 of 687 patients (about 3 percent) had persistent baldness after nearly five years.”

163. On May 10, 2010, an article by Ben Tallon, MBChB, and others entitled “Permanent chemotherapy-induced alopecia: Case report and review of the literature” was published online. That article described “a case of permanent hair loss following standard dose chemotherapy with docetaxel, carboplatin, and trastuzumab for the treatment of breast carcinoma.” There, the “lack of evidence for alopecia with trastuzumab, and the exposure to only a single infusion of standard dose carboplatin, suggests that docetaxel is the implicated agent.” The article also explained: “Permanent [chemotherapy-induced alopecia] has been described following the use of ... docetaxel.”

164. Later in 2010, Sanofi completed its analysis of the ten-year follow-up results for TAX 316, the clinical trial used to support the adjuvant breast cancer indication. This analysis found that the number of women reporting persisting hair loss had increased from the 22 patients reported in



2004 to 29 patients out of the 687 patients tracked into follow-up. This represented an increase in the incidence of persistent alopecia from approximately 3% to 4.2%. Sanofi had previously decided in 2009 not to update the U.S. label with the follow-up data from TAX 316. Instead, Sanofi submitted to the FDA only the Final Clinical Study Report for TAX 316, which is over a thousand pages long, without submitting a labeling change. In addition, Sanofi continued to conceal this information from the medical community and consumers, including Plaintiffs.

165. In March of 2011, the French Health Authorities responded to Sanofi's overview of persisting alopecia, concluding that patients and healthcare providers should be provided information about the risk of permanent alopecia given the serious psychological consequences of this adverse effect.

166. The following month, Sanofi's Compliance Department issued an internal audit of drug labeling for various drug products, including Taxotere, to evaluate the accuracy and completeness of the safety data presented in the drug labeling. For Taxotere, the audit revealed that the labeling failed to include the incidence rate of persistent alopecia from TAX 316. Sanofi did not add this information to the label until 2018.

167. In June of 2011, the European Medicines Agency adopted the consensus of the French Health Authorities regarding persistent alopecia, informing Sanofi that the label for Taxotere needed to be updated to inform patients of the risk of irreversible alopecia. Sanofi updated the Taxotere label distributed in the European Union but did not update the label in the United States. Instead, Sanofi continued to conceal this information from the medical community and consumers in the United States, including Plaintiffs.

168. Also in 2011, the American Journal of Dermatopathology published a study entitled "Permanent Alopecia After Systemic Chemotherapy: A Clinicopathological Study of 10 Cases," by Mariya Miteva, MD and others. The article discussed "the histological features of 10 cases of

permanent alopecia after systematic chemotherapy with taxanes (docetaxel),” including 6 cases in which the patients took docetaxel for breast cancer. “All patients had moderate to very severe hair thinning ...”

169. On May 9, 2012, the Annals of Oncology published an article entitled “Permanent scalp alopecia related to breast cancer chemotherapy by sequential fluorouracil/ epirubicin/ cyclophosphamide (FEC) and docetaxel: a prospective study of 20 patients,” by Nicolas Kluger, M.D.,Ph.D., among others. It reported that, since 2009, “nine cases of permanent scalp alopecia after systemic chemotherapy related to taxanes used to treat breast cancer have been reported ... Docetaxel was almost always involved, alone in seven cases ... or in association with carboplatin ... and trastuzumab.”

170. In October 2013, Drs. Nicola Thorp, Felicity Swift, Donna Arundell and Helen Wong presented at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in the United Kingdom on “Long Term Hair Loss in Patients with Early Breast Cancer Receiving Docetaxel Chemotherapy.” Their study was based on a questionnaire sent in October 2013 to patients who received docetaxel in 2010. Out of 189 questionnaires, 134 were returned. “Of those responding 21 (15.8 percent) had significant persistent scalp hair loss.” The presentation concluded: “Long term significant scalp alopecia (hair lasting for up to 3.5 years following completion of chemotherapy) may affect 10-15 percent of patients following docetaxel for EBC. This appears to be unrelated to other patient and treatment characteristics ... This risk should be discussed routinely (as part of the process of informed consent) with all patients embarking upon docetaxel as a component of management of EBC.”

171. This Clatterbridge study was also published at the 2014 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

172. On November 10, 2015, the Journal of Clinical Oncology published an article entitled “Epirubicin Plus Cyclophosphamide Followed by Docetaxel Versus Epirubicin Plus Docetaxel

Followed by Capecitabine As Adjuvant Therapy for Node-Positive Early Breast Cancer: Results From the GEICAM/2003-10 Study.” This article reviewed and reiterated the connection between docetaxel and long-term alopecia:

Patients who received [docetaxel] not only had to wear a wig for a longer period of time but also reported a significantly higher proportion of long-term incomplete scalp hair recovery and permanent wig use after therapy. This adverse effect, probably related to docetaxel ... has previously been described by others. Sedlacek reported that approximately 6% of patients who received adjuvant docetaxel for early BC had persistent alopecia, whereas this toxicity was not seen in 384 patients receiving nondocetaxel adjuvant regimens. Kluger et al reported 20 patients with BC with persistent hair loss of androgenetic-like pattern after adjuvant treatment with CEF followed by docetaxel. Consequently, a prospective study of the efficacy of scalp hypothermia in the prevention of docetaxel-induced persistent alopecia is ongoing at one of the centers participating in the present trial.

173. Despite this, hair loss was listed as a “possible side effect[] of Taxotere” that “generally grows back” in a Patient Information Letter circulated by Sanofi beginning in December 23, 1999 and an informational brochure given to oncology nurses in 2006.

174. By contrast, the labeling for Taxotere approved by the European Medicines Agency in 2005 acknowledged that “[c]ases of persisting alopecia have been reported.” It also stated in a tabulated list of adverse reactions in breast cancer that took into account node-positive breast cancer (from TAX 316) and node-negative breast cancer (from GEICAM 9805) that alopecia is a “[v]ery common adverse reaction,” with persisting alopecia occurring under three percent of the time.

175. Likewise, in a self-sponsored clinical trial, the informed consent form provided by Sanofi to Canadian patients disclosed irreversible alopecia as a possible side effect but a similar informed consent form provided to United States patients in 2006 and 2007 did not. Again, Sanofi concealed this information from patients in the United States.

176. In the September 28, 2007 version of the Highlights of Prescribing Information in the United States, alopecia is listed as one of the most common adverse reactions. There is no mention of permanent alopecia.

177. The April 2010 version of Taxotere’s United States labeling stated that “hair generally grows back.” That language does not appear in the May 2010 version of Taxotere’s label. Instead, the 2011 version of the prescribing information stated under “Patient Counseling Information” that “side effects such as ... hair loss are associated with docetaxel administration.” “Patient Information” indicated that the “most common side effects of TAXOTERE include: ... hair loss.” The document contains no mention of irreversible or permanent hair loss. Instead, it states that “alopecia” is one of the most common adverse reactions. The November 2014 version of this labeling information contains the same text.

178. In May 2015, Sanofi UK updated its Taxotere label. That version states that a “[v]ery common” side effect is “hair loss (in most cases normal hair growth should return).”

179. On June 12, 2015, Canada’s Taxotere labeling changed. Its new labeling stated: “Hair loss may happen shortly after treatment has begun. Your hair should grow back once you’ve finished the treatment. However, some patients may experience persistent hair loss.

180. In August 2015, Australia’s Taxotere labeling changed. Its new labeling stated that alopecia was “observed to be ongoing at the median follow-up time of 55 months.”

181. In the United States, Sanofi submitted a CBE on November 24, 2015 concerning permanent alopecia.

182. On December 11, 2015, FDA approved the CBE. Under the “Adverse Reactions” and “Patient Counseling Information” sections of the label, Sanofi added the language that “cases of permanent hair loss have been reported.” In the “Patient Information” section, Sanofi added that the most common side effects of TAXOTERE include “hair loss: in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed.”

183. On April 11, 2018, Sanofi submitted a Prior Approval sNDA, request that the Taxotere label be updated to identify adverse events occurring at the conclusion of the follow-up period in TAX

316 in 2010. Among the adverse events identified by Sanofi included alopecia still ongoing at median follow-up of 8-years. FDA approved Sanofi's proposed label change on October 5, 2018.

184. Upon information and belief, Defendants failed to comply with the FDA postmarketing reporting requirements under 21 C.F.R. § 314.80 by, among other things, failing to report each adverse drug experience concerning the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate products, whether foreign or domestic, including Plaintiffs' injuries complained of herein, as soon as possible but in no case later than 15 calendar days after initial receipt of the information by Defendants, failing to promptly investigate all adverse drug experiences concerning these drug products that are the subject of these postmarketing 15-day Alert reports, failing to submit follow up reports within 15 calendar days of receipt of new information or as requested by the FDA, and, if additional information is not obtainable, failing to maintain records of the unsuccessful steps taken to seek additional information.

185. Also, consistent with the Changes Being Effected regulations, Defendants had and continue to have a duty to initiate a change to the products' labels to reflect the true levels of risk, including the risk of developing Plaintiffs' injuries complained of herein. To this day, Defendants have not adequately satisfied their duty to update the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate products' labeling or prescribing information to reflect their knowledge as to the true risks of developing the injuries complained of herein.

**D. Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate Caused Permanent Alopecia in Many Breast Cancer Patients.**

186. Chemotherapy is known to cause temporary and reversible hair loss. Hair loss occurs because chemotherapy targets rapidly dividing cells (both normal, healthy cells as well as cancer cells) including hair follicles. Hair follicles, the structures in the skin filled with tiny blood vessels that make hair, are some of the fastest growing cells in the body, thus, hair follicles are some of the most likely cells to be damaged by chemotherapy.

187. There are 100,000 hair follicles on the scalp that typically grow about 0.3 to 0.4 mm a day or about six inches a year. For hair production, hair follicles undergo a cycle that consists of three phases: the anagen phase (growth), the catagen phase (transition), and the telogen phase (resting). During the anagen phase, the cells at the root of the hair follicle are dividing rapidly and an entire hair shaft from tip to root is formed. The matrix cells, which build the hair shaft, have a cell cycle length of approximately 18 hours. Approximately 90 percent of the hair on the scalp is normally in the anagen phase.

188. The catagen phase is a short transitional phase that occurs at the end of the anagen phase when growth of a hair stops. Only about 3 percent of hair follicles are in the catagen phase at any time.

189. The hair follicle is completely at rest during the telogen phase and, at the end of the telogen phase, the hair falls out and a new hair is supposed to start growing in the hair follicle beginning the hair cycle again with the anagen phase. Around 6 to 8 percent of all hair is regularly in the telogen phase.

190. Chemotherapy causes the matrix cells to stop dividing abruptly in the anagen phase. As a result, the portion of the hair shaft that is the closest to the skull narrows and subsequently breaks within the hair canal. For this reason, hair loss usually begins one to three weeks after the initiation of chemotherapy and hair may fall out very quickly in clumps or gradually.

191. Because the majority of hair on the scalp is in the anagen phase during any given period, the hair loss that results from chemotherapy can be quite significant and visible.

192. The effects of chemotherapy on hair follicles results in temporary hair loss that lasts until the telogen phase is complete and a new hair cycle begins. According to the Mayo Clinic, hair can be expected to grow back after chemotherapy within three to six months. Dr. Ralph M. Trueb, the author of several articles related hair loss associated with chemotherapy, also states that hair regrowth

following chemotherapy treatment will occur within three to six months after cessation of treatment.

193. Unlike the temporary and reversible alopecia that ordinarily results from chemotherapy, Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate cause Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia.

194. There is no single definition for Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia and the amount of time to establish permanent hair loss varies from patient to patient, including among Plaintiffs. The scientific literature has variously referred to Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia as occurring between twelve to twenty-four months following chemotherapy treatment. Some literature has indicated that hair loss can be deemed “persistent” six months beyond the completion of chemotherapy.

195. Sanofi has stated in court filings that “persistent” alopecia generally describes hair loss for some duration of time following chemotherapy (e.g., 3 days, 30 days, 3 months, 6 months, etc.) and carries with it the potential for hair regrowth to occur.

196. Sanofi has also stated in court filings that “irreversible” or “permanent” alopecia, at a basic level means that an individual’s hair will never regrow.

197. Before this litigation and after, Sanofi has described Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia in a number of different ways. Employees of Sanofi have testified that permanent hair loss does not necessarily mean hair loss of six months. In 2010, Sanofi’s Global Safety Officer concluded it was reasonable to assume that chemotherapy induced alopecia is “permanent” if alopecia persists for longer than four years following chemotherapy treatment. Consistent with that conclusion, in August of 2018, Sanofi’s Global Safety Officer stated that it is reasonable to consider alopecia to be permanent if hair has not regrown for four years after chemotherapy. Nevertheless, in 2015, Sanofi’s Global Safety Officer utilized a two-year cut off for deciding that chemotherapy induced alopecia is “permanent.” Internal email correspondence indicates that the company chose a two-year

cut off in order to underreport to the FDA the incidence of permanent hair loss.

198. Upon information and belief, the varying definitions of Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia, as described above, were not reasonably knowable to prescribers or consumers of Taxotere, including Plaintiffs.

199. The Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia caused by Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate is not limited to the scalp and can affect hair follicles throughout the body.

200. Patients who receive Taxotere without any other type of chemotherapy have experienced permanent hair loss all over their bodies. For example, one oncologist reported he was unlikely to prescribe Taxotere in early stage breast cancer patients because of the toxicity of the drug. When prescribing Taxotere in early stage breast cancer cases, he recommended lower dosage levels over a longer period of time. His patients who have received Taxotere have experienced permanent hair loss.

201. Also, the GEICAM 9805, a study sponsored by Sanofi produced evidence that over 9 percent of high risk breast cancer patients who were administered Taxotere suffered permanent alopecia with hair loss lasting, in some cases, over ten years.

202. Dr. Sedlacek's 2006 study, as described above, further demonstrates that Taxotere causes permanent hair loss. His study divided patients he treated from January of 1994 to December of 2004 into three groups. The first group, which contained 258 patients, received Doxorubicin. None suffered permanent alopecia. The second group, which contained 126 patients, received Doxorubicin and Taxol. Again, none suffered permanent alopecia. The third group contained 112 patients who received Doxorubicin and Taxotere. Of those patients, 6.3 percent suffered permanent alopecia with hair regrowth of less than 50 percent of the amount before chemotherapy.

203. In addition, and as detailed above, Dr. Tallon's 2010 article concluded that, when a



cocktail of Taxotere, Trastuzumab, and Carboplatin was administered and there was resulting permanent alopecia, Taxotere was the implicated agent. Its reasoning was that there was a lack of evidence linking alopecia with Trastuzumab and limited exposure to Carboplatin. Trastuzumab does not contain a component that causes hair loss and does not increase the rate of hair loss when combined with standard chemotherapy. Similarly, Carboplatin causes only mild temporary alopecia in 5 percent of users.

204. Likewise, the 2012 study by Dr. Kluger and others concluded that Taxanes were responsible for permanent scalp alopecia among patients who were administered a sequential regimen of FEC (fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide) followed by docetaxel. They noted that no patients treated with only anthracycline regimens (and not docetaxel) suffered from permanent severe scalp alopecia.

205. Further, Drs. Thorp, Swift, Arundell and Wong in their 2014 presentation reported that 15.8 percent of Taxotere patients surveyed had significant persistent scalp hair loss for up to 3.5 years following completion of chemotherapy.

206. Finally, Sanofi's change to the Taxotere label in 2015 and 2018, described above, acknowledges that Taxotere causes permanent hair loss but fails to do so adequately. Moreover, some Defendants have chosen not to adopt Sanofi's revised labeling. Under the "Patient Counseling Information" of the revised label, the new text reads: "Explain to patients that side effects such as ... hair loss (cases of permanent hair loss have been reported) are associated with docetaxel administration." Additionally, under "Patient Information," the label states that the "most common side effects of TAXOTERE include: ... hair loss: in most cases normal hair growth should return. In some cases (frequency not known) permanent hair loss has been observed." The label contains no mention of irreversible or permanent hair loss under "Warnings and Precautions" or "Adverse Reactions."

207. By contrast, in a report issued on Taxotere on May 12, 2016, the European Medicines Agency (“EMA”) concluded that “[b]ased on review of the Sanofi global pharmacovigilance database, worldwide scientific literature, clinical studies, and biological plausibility, the cumulative weighted evidence is sufficient to support a causal association between docetaxel and permanent/irreversible alopecia in the patients who received docetaxel.”

208. Because NDA holders and their assigns or agents are held to the knowledge of an expert in the field concerning the products they sell, Defendants cannot plead ignorance of the scientific information publicly available or otherwise available to them that would have supported a label change, including the studies and information discussed herein.

**E. Sanofi Marketed & Promoted Taxotere Despite Knowing It Caused Permanent Alopecia**

209. Sanofi, including its predecessors and affiliates, have designed, directed, and/or engaged in a marketing scheme to over promote Taxotere directly to consumers and for off-label uses not approved by the FDA. As a result, Sanofi has earned in excess of €7 billion in revenue on its sales of Taxotere in the United States:

<b>Year</b>	<b>U.S. Sales as Reported by Sanofi S.A.</b>
2000	€367,000,000
2001	€541,000,000
2002	€701,000,000
2003	€733,000,000
2004	Could not be located
2005	€695,000,000
2006	€708,000,000
2007	€691,000,000
2008	€737,000,000
2009	€827,000,000
2010	€786,000,000
2011	€243,000,000
2012	€53,000,000
2013	€42,000,000
2014	€8,000,000

2015	€-1,000,000
2016	€4,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€7,135,000,000</b>

210. In or around 2000, Sanofi hired a marketing firm to conduct a study on the primary concerns of oncologists and breast cancer patients undergoing treatment. The results of the study revealed that breast cancer patients felt an innate need to stay ‘connected’ through various means.

211. As a result of the marketing study, Sanofi launched a new sales promotional campaign in 2000 known as “Connection Cards” in which gift packages were offered to breast cancer patients at their oncologist’s office. These gift packages initially included ten custom designed note cards and envelopes; a 30-minute prepaid long-distance calling card; a reference card with contact information for nationally recognized breast cancer organizations; a reference card with contact information with the company’s breast cancer support program; and most importantly, a brochure giving detailed information about Taxotere.

212. To maintain the effectiveness of the promotional campaign, Sanofi added coupons for wigs and vouchers for discounted taxi services to the gift packages provided to breast cancer patients. In 2002, Sanofi made available to U.S. patients approximately 60,000 “Connection Cards” through 150 sales representatives.

213. Sanofi claimed the promotional campaign to be a success, adding the campaign to its permanent rotation of promotional materials.

214. Sanofi also promoted Taxotere for the following breast cancer treatments, which at the time, were neither approved by the FDA nor supported by the available drug compendia: adjuvant breast cancer, neo-adjuvant breast cancer, weekly dose for metastatic breast cancer.

215. Sanofi directed its U.S. sales force to misrepresent the safety and effectiveness of the off-label use of Taxotere to expand the market for Taxotere in unapproved settings, such as a first-line of treatment or for early-stage breast cancer.

216. On July 26, 2001, the FDA's Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising and Communications, now known as the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion, sent a letter to Sanofi identifying promotional activities that were in violation of the FDCA and its implementing regulations on off-label promotion.

217. In particular, FDA identified promotional brochures distributed at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in May 2001 that stated that Taxotere was safe and effective for first-line treatment in combination with Adriamycin such as that it was "the only taxane combination approved for first-line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer."

218. This was considered off-label promotion because Taxotere in combination with Adriamycin was approved by FDA only for second-line treatment—not first-line treatment—of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. Likewise, as explained by FDA, other taxane combinations, as well as other classes of drug combinations, were approved for this first-line treatment. FDA demanded that Sanofi "immediately cease the distribution of these and similar promotional materials."

219. FDA sent a second warnings letter to Sanofi on December 18, 2002, concerning promotional materials at the 2002 Annual Meeting, which featured queen chess pieces and stated that Taxotere was "at the center of more strategies every day." According to FDA, these promotional materials constituted "false or misleading promotion" which could "compromise patient survival and safety." FDA focused on Sanofi's claim that Taxotere resulted in "significant survival advantages," noting that this statement was not supported by clinical trial results. FDA also noted that Sanofi underemphasized information concerning severe risks that can result from using Taxotere.

220. Sanofi responded to FDA on December 30, 2002, stating "we are discontinuing the use of these [ads], and any similar materials." Nonetheless, Sanofi continued its false and misleading promotional and marketing activities.

221. Despite Sanofi's assurances that these and similar promotional materials would be discontinued and destroyed, FDA sent Sanofi a third warnings letter on July 17, 2003, identifying two direct-to-consumer promotional pieces that raised "similar" concerns. These two promotional ads appeared on the back of People Magazine's circulation wrap and prominently featured the slogan "The Next Move May Be the Key to Your Survival" and "It's Your Move," which again featured the queen and chess piece theme.

222. FDA found these ads to be misleading because the headline suggests that, if cancer patients want to survive breast or lung cancer, their "next move" should include Taxotere, thus implying that Taxotere is "more effective than has been demonstrated by substantial evidence or substantial clinical experience." FDA concluded that Sanofi's ads "reinforce[] the message that treatment with Taxotere will result in significant survival advantages," when the clinical data "did not necessarily represent longterm survival or a cure." FDA demanded that Sanofi submit a letter stating the status of these items (active or discontinued) as well a list of violative promotional materials.

223. Sanofi replied on August 1, 2003, assuring FDA that the two ads had been discontinued and identifying another direct-to-consumer promotional piece, similar to the two ads. The third ad, which featured the same Taxotere slogans, "*The Next Move May Be the Key to Your Survival*," and "*It's Your Move*," had been disseminated in "Coping," "MAAM," and "Cure" Magazines between March and July 2003 and was planned to be disseminated in these magazines in addition to "Y-Me" magazine through December 2003. Only after follow-up telephone calls did Sanofi assure FDA in an August 21, 2003 letter that it had discontinued use of this additional misleading piece.

224. FDA concluded on November 12, 2003 that these three ads likewise "misleadingly overstate[d] the survival benefits ... and impl[ied] that survival depends on treatment with Taxotere," while simultaneously "minimizing the serious and potentially life-threatening risks associated with the drug."

225. As late as January 2004, Sanofi distributed banned materials to physicians and other healthcare providers that promoted Taxotere, using materials with the same misleading slogans and substantially similar misleading information.

226. In addition, Sanofi's salespeople were directed to "cherry pick" positive clinical study results. For example, in the breast cancer setting, Sanofi trained its salespeople to downplay the results of clinical trial results and the NIH Guidelines for Adjuvant Breast Cancer, which showed that evidence of taxanes' role in the adjuvant treatment of node positive breast cancer was inconclusive. By contrast, to emphasize Taxotere's superiority over Taxol, they were also instructed to highlight preliminary results and abstracts from weaker trials. Similarly, they were trained to emphasize the lower incidence of non-lethal side effects when compared with Taxol while omitting the lethal side effect of severe neutropenia that occurs more frequently when using Taxotere.

227. In doing so, Sanofi continued to make false and misleading statements promoting the "superior efficacy" of Taxotere over the competing product paclitaxel (Taxol). In June 2008, Sanofi utilized marketing and promotional materials for Taxotere at the annual meeting for the American Society of Clinical Oncology, comparing the efficacy of Taxotere versus paclitaxel (Taxol). Specifically, Sanofi utilized a "reprint carrier," citing a clinical study published in the August 2005 edition of the Journal of Clinical Oncology. The cover of the reprint carrier claimed, among other things:

- "Taxotere demonstrated efficacy benefits vs paclitaxel"
- "This phase III study demonstrated that docetaxel is superior to paclitaxel in TTP, response duration, and OS [overall survival]."
- "Phase III trial demonstrated improved survival for Taxotere vs paclitaxel in metastatic breast cancer"

228. Sanofi's statements in the "reprint carrier" marketing the conclusions of the 2005 Journal of Clinical Oncology study were false and/or misleading in light of the 2007 and 2008 studies finding that Taxotere was not more effective than paclitaxel (Taxol) in the treatment of breast cancer.

229. Specifically, in August 2007, Cancer Treatment Reviews published a study that found no significant differences in the efficacy and outcomes obtained with Taxotere or Taxol (paclitaxel) in breast cancer treatment. Likewise, a 2008 study in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that Taxol (paclitaxel) was more effective than Taxotere for patients undergoing standard adjuvant chemotherapy with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide.

230. As a result of these false and misleading statements, in 2009, the FDA issued a warning letter to Sanofi citing these unsubstantiated claims of superiority over paclitaxel stating:

The Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reviewed a professional reprint carrier [US.DOC.07.04.078] for Taxotere (docetaxel) Injection Concentrate, Intravenous Infusion (Taxotere) submitted under cover of Form FDA 2253 by Sanofi-Aventis (SA) and obtained at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in June 2008. The reprint carrier includes a reprint from the Journal of Clinical Oncology, which describes the TAX 311 study. This reprint carrier is false or misleading because it presents unsubstantiated superiority claims and overstates the efficacy of Taxotere. Therefore, this material misbrands the drug in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), 21 U.S.C. 352(a) and 321(n). Cf. 21 CFR 202.1(e)(6)(i), (ii) & (e)(7)(ii).

...

The reference cited in support of these claims ... does not constitute substantial evidence or substantial clinical experience to support these claims and representations because, among other factors, the study failed to demonstrate statistical significance on the primary endpoint and has not been replicated.

231. In addition, Sanofi also began indirectly promoting Taxotere through a series of direct-to-consumer television commercials that began airing in 2007. One of these commercials showed breast cancer patients slowly removing their wigs as an omniscient voice stated: “Cancer is tough but so are you. Get the facts, share the feelings, look to the future—Sanofi Aventis— because health matters and so do you.” These and other similar direct-to-consumer advertisements continued at least through 2010.

#### **F. Sanofi Actively Sought to Hide that Taxotere Could Cause Permanent Hair Loss**

232. Sanofi’s marketing efforts also affirmatively sought to minimize any association

between Taxotere and permanent alopecia.

233. According to Sanofi's Global Safety Officer for Taxotere, Sanofi knew that Taxotere could cause permanent hair loss in 2006. Despite this, Sanofi created and published in 2006 an information brochure for oncology nurses that described alopecia as "a common, yet temporary, side effect of some cancer medicines" and provided no information regarding the risk of permanent alopecia associated with Taxotere.

234. In addition, in 2010, Sanofi began proactively removing any comments about permanent alopecia from its Facebook page titled "Voices," which Sanofi sponsored for the alleged purpose of "mak[ing] Voices heard throughout the community on issues of importance to patients..."

235. Sanofi began this practice after it observed posts from women about permanent alopecia following a March 5, 2010 article in the Globe and Mail, which described instances of permanent hair loss among Taxotere patients. In response, Sanofi's communications department formed a Rapid Response Team, and among its responsibilities included monitoring Sanofi's Voices Facebook page at all times to remove any posts about Taxotere and permanent hair loss.

236. Sanofi shortly thereafter hired an outside company, InTouch Solutions, to conduct this around-the-clock monitoring of its Facebook page. At Sanofi's direction, InTouch logged and removed posts about permanent hair loss, blocked the user posting about it, and reported the user to Facebook to have her banned from the platform.

237. For example, one Facebook user posted on Sanofi's page the following: "When will you inform oncologists that there is a problem with your chemo drug, Taxotere? Why don't you want women to know they could be left permanently disfigured? Because they will choose a different drug not made by you. The net is closing in on you, Sanofi." At Sanofi's direction, InTouch Solutions removed the post within an hour, blocked the user from posting on the page, and reported the user to Facebook.



238. Another user posted, “My medical team have spoken to you, and therefore I have been informed that YOUR DRUG Taxotere has done this to me. Why do you ignore me and REFUSE to contact me? Why don’t you explain to me why your drug Taxotere has permanently disfigured me and hundreds of others?” InTouch Solutions removed the post within an hour and reported the user to Facebook. The same user posted 28 more times, and at Sanofi’s direction, InTouch Solutions removed the post from Facebook and had the woman permanently banned from the page.

239. A different user posted “I did say I wouldn’t stop until there was global publicity. You can’t shut up women that you disfigure.” Her post was removed by InTouch Solutions within an hour.

240. After successfully scrubbing mention of permanent hair loss from Sanofi’s Voices Facebook page, InTouch Solutions created a presentation to market its services to other drug companies, and it used the “crisis management” services it provided to Sanofi as a case study of what it could accomplish for its clients.

241. As a result of Sanofi’s fraudulent concealment of the association between Taxotere and Permanent Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia, the medical community and patients, including Plaintiffs, were deprived of adequate information about the drug. Consequently, Plaintiffs were unaware of the connection between their use of Taxotere and their injury of permanent hair loss.

**G. Permanent Alopecia is Devastating for Plaintiffs.**

242. Research indicates that a majority of women consider alopecia the most traumatic side effect of cancer treatment. One study states that 58 percent of women preparing for chemotherapy describe alopecia as the most disturbing anticipated side effect, and that 8 percent of women may choose to forego treatment based on possible alopecia. Although baldness is the most commonly recognized form of alopecia, chemotherapy-related hair loss can extend to eyebrows, eyelashes, arm and leg hair, pubic hair, etc.

243. Women with cancer who experience alopecia, as compared with women with cancer

who do not, report lower self-esteem, poorer body image, and a lower quality of life. Alopecia can be stigmatizing and may result in anger, anxiety, embarrassment, sadness, depression, shame, helplessness, fear, and loss of sense of self. Women with alopecia may experience a loss of sense of femininity, sexuality, attractiveness, self-confidence, and womanhood. Even if hair does grow back, studies have found that these negative thoughts and feelings remain; body image tends not to return to pre-treatment levels.

244. Alopecia also alters how women interact with others and experience social situations. Alopecia symbolizes cancer identity and treatment, even when individuals wear wigs or garments to cover the hair loss. These symbols can heighten an individual's everyday awareness that she has or had cancer.

245. Hair loss alters how women recognize themselves and how others interact with them. Hair is a critical aspect of appearance that can facilitate recognition as female, young, and healthy. By contrast, loss of hair may cause others to categorize individuals as old and unhealthy. As a result, women who suffer from alopecia have a heightened awareness of their appearance during social interactions, and may be treated differently than they were before their hair loss.

246. To cope, many avoid social situations because they are nervous that others will treat them differently. These fears are not unfounded. In one study of cancer survivors, 75 percent of participants reported experiencing silent stares from others that they attributed to their "cancer appearance." Participants also reported that people they knew avoided public contact with them.

247. Hair loss can also increase risk of injury to the body. Nose hair, eyelashes, ear hair, etc. serve important bodily functions and are necessary for the protection against injury to organs critical to human senses. Hair loss in these areas places women at risk of permanent injuries.

248. Even when, unlike here, patients were warned that cancer-related hair loss may occur, cancer patients have reported feeling that they were not given adequate information about how to

manage cancer-related hair loss. This underscores the importance of healthcare providers appreciating the traumatic effect that cancer-related alopecia may have on their patients.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Strict Products Liability – Failure to Warn – Against All Defendants)**

249. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

250. At all relevant times, Defendants were in the business of designing, researching, manufacturing, testing, promoting, marketing, selling, and/or distributing pharmaceutical products, including the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate as hereinabove described that was used by Plaintiffs, or have recently acquired the entities that did the same.

251. The Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate designed, formulated, produced, manufactured, sold, marketed, distributed, supplied and/or placed into the stream of commerce by Defendants failed to provide adequate warnings to users and their healthcare providers, including Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, of the risk of side effects associated with the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, particularly the risk of developing disfiguring, permanent alopecia.

252. As the holder of the Reference Listed Drug ("RLD") for Taxotere, Sanofi supplied the labeling for Winthrop U.S.'s generic version of Taxotere.

253. The Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate designed, formulated, produced, manufactured, sold, marketed, distributed, supplied and/or placed into the stream of commerce by Defendants and ultimately administered to Plaintiffs lacked such warnings when it left Defendants' control.

254. The risks of developing disfiguring, permanent alopecia were known to or reasonably

scientifically knowable by Defendants at the time the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate left Defendants' control.

255. Any warnings actually provided by Defendants did not sufficiently and/or accurately reflect the symptoms, type, scope, severity, and/or duration of these side effects, particularly the risks of developing disfiguring, permanent alopecia.

256. Without adequate warning of these side effects, Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate are not reasonably fit, suitable, or safe for its reasonably anticipated or intended purposes.

257. Plaintiffs were reasonably foreseeable users of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate who used the drug in reasonably anticipated manners.

258. Plaintiffs would not have used Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate had they (and their Physicians) been provided an adequate warning by Defendants of the risk of these side effects.

259. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to warn of the potentially severe adverse effects of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**(Strict Products Liability for Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)**

260. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

261. Defendants sold the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate that Plaintiffs' healthcare providers prescribed for Plaintiffs and that Plaintiffs used.

262. Defendants were engaged in the business of selling the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for resale, use, or consumption.

263. Defendants misrepresented facts as set forth herein concerning the character or quality of the Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate that would be material to potential prescribers and purchasers or users of the product.

264. Defendants' misrepresentations were made to potential prescribers and/or purchasers or users as members of the public at large.

265. As purchasers or users, Plaintiffs and/or their healthcare providers reasonably relied on the misrepresentations.

266. Plaintiffs were persons who would reasonably be expected to use, consume, or be affected by the Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez.

267. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counselling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and

past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Negligence – Against All Defendants)**

268. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

269. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the design, research, formulation, manufacture, production, marketing, testing, supply, promotion, packaging, sale, and/or distribution of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, including a duty to assure that the product would not cause users to suffer unreasonable, disfiguring, and dangerous side effects.

270. Defendants breached these duties when they put Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate into interstate commerce, unreasonably and without adequate and/or proper warning to Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers, a product that Defendants knew or should have known created a high risk of unreasonable, disfiguring, and dangerous side effects.

271. The negligence of Defendants, their agents, servants, and/or employees, included but was not limited to, the following acts and/or omissions:

- (a) Manufacturing, producing, promoting, formulating, creating, and/or designing Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate without thoroughly, adequately, and/or sufficiently testing it—including pre- clinical and clinical testing and post-marketing surveillance—for safety and fitness for use and/or its dangers and risks;
- (b) Marketing Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and the medical and healthcare professions without adequately and correctly warning and/or disclosing the existence, severity, and duration of known or knowable side effects, including permanent alopecia;
- (c) Marketing Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and the medical

and healthcare professions without providing adequate instructions regarding safety precautions to be observed by users, handlers, and persons who would reasonably and foreseeably come into contact with, and more particularly, use, Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez;

- (d) Advertising and recommending the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez; without sufficient knowledge of its safety profile;
- (e) Representing to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and the medical and healthcare professions that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were superior to other commercially available products designed to treat the same forms of cancer Taxotere was designed to treat, when in fact they were not;
- (f) Designing, manufacturing, producing, and/or assembling Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate in a manner that was dangerous to its users;
- (g) Concealing information from Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, other medical and healthcare professionals, and the FDA that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were unsafe, dangerous, and/or non-conforming with FDA regulations;
- (h) Concealing from and/or misrepresenting information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, other medical and healthcare professionals, and/or the FDA concerning the existence and severity of risks and dangers of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, as compared to other forms of treatment for cancer.; and
- (i) Encouraging the sale of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, either directly or indirectly, orally or in writing, to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers without warning about the need for more comprehensive and regular medical monitoring than usual to ensure early discovery of potentially serious side effects.

272. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate caused unreasonably dangerous side effects, Defendants continued and continue to market, manufacture, distribute, and/or sell Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate to consumers, including Plaintiffs.

273. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers were therefore forced to rely on safety information that did not accurately represent the risks and benefits associated with the use of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate as compared to other products

already commercially available to treat the same types of cancer Taxotere was designed to treat.

274. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers such as Plaintiffs would use their product and would foreseeably suffer injury as a result of Defendants' failure to exercise reasonable care, as set forth above.

275. Defendants' negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' injuries, harms, damages, and losses, in connection with the use of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, including but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement including permanent and irreversible alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Negligent Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)**

276. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

277. Defendants had a duty to represent to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, and the public in general that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate had been tested and found to be safe and effective for the treatment of various forms of cancer.

278. When warning of safety and risks of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, Defendants negligently represented to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, and the public in general that they had been tested and was found to be safe and/or effective for its indicated use.



279. Defendants concealed their knowledge of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, defects from Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public in general and/or the medical community specifically.

280. Defendants concealed their knowledge of the defects in their products from Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public in general.

281. Defendants misrepresented the novel nature of their product in order to gain a market advantage resulting in billions of dollars in revenues at the expense of vulnerable cancer victims such as Plaintiffs.

282. Defendants made these misrepresentations with the intent of defrauding and deceiving Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public in general, and the medical and healthcare community in particular, and were made with the intent of inducing Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public in general, and the medical community in particular, to recommend, dispense, and/or purchase Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for use in the treatments of various forms of cancer, including, but not limited to, breast cancer.

283. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in their representations of Taxotere while involved in its manufacture, sale, testing, quality assurance, quality control, and/or distribution into interstate commerce, and Defendants negligently misrepresented Taxotere's, Docetaxel Injection's, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate's, and Docefrez's high risks of unreasonable, dangerous side effects.

284. Defendants breached their duty in misrepresenting Taxotere's, Docetaxel Injection's, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate's, and Docefrez's, serious side effects to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, the FDA, and the public in general.

285. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers reasonably relied on Defendants to fulfil their obligations to disclose all facts within their knowledge regarding the serious side effects of

Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez.

286. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counselling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

#### **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **(Fraudulent Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)**

287. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

288. Defendants represented to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the medical and healthcare community, and the public in general that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate had been tested and was found to be safe and effective for the treatment of certain forms of cancer and was free of defects that could and would cause serious side effects, including permanent and irreversible hair loss.

289. Defendants fraudulently omitted from these representations information that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate could and did cause serious side effects, including permanent and irreversible hair loss.

290. These representations were material and false.

291. Defendants made these representations and omissions:

- (a) with knowledge or belief of their falsity, and/or in the case of omissions, with knowledge or belief of falsity of the resulting statements;

- (b) positively and recklessly without knowledge of their truth or falsity;
- (c) with knowledge that they were made without any basis; and/or
- (d) without confidence in the accuracy of the representations or statements resulting from the omissions.

292. Defendants made these false representations with the intention or expectation that Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public in general, and the medical community in particular, would recommend, dispense, and/or purchase Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for use in the treatments of various forms of cancer, including, but not limited to, breast cancer, all of which evidenced a callous, reckless, willful, wanton, and depraved indifference to the health, safety, and welfare of Plaintiffs.

293. At the time Defendants made the aforesaid representations, and, at the time Plaintiffs used Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers were unaware of the falsity of Defendants' representations, statements and/or implications and justifiably and reasonably relied upon Defendants' representations, statements, and implications, believing them to be true.

294. In reliance upon Defendants' representations, Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers were induced to and did use and prescribe Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, which caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and

impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**(Fraudulent Concealment – Against All Defendants)**

295. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

296. At all times during the course of dealing between Defendants and Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, Defendants misrepresented the design characteristics and safety of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate for their intended use.

297. Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that its representations were false.

298. In representations made to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, Defendants fraudulently concealed and intentionally omitted the following material information:

- (a) that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were not as safe as other forms of treatment for which they were marketed and sold to cancer patients;
- (b) that the risks of adverse events with Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were higher than those with other forms of treatment for which they were marketed and sold to cancer patients;
- (c) that the risks of adverse events with Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were not adequately tested and/or known by Defendants;
- (d) that Defendants were aware of dangers in Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, in addition to and above and beyond those associated with other forms of treatment for cancer patients;
- (e) that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were defective in that it caused dangerous side effects as well as other severe and permanent health consequences in a much more and significant rate than other forms of treatment for cancer patients;

299. Defendants had a duty to disclose to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers the defective nature of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, and Docefrez, including, but not limited to, the heightened risks of disfiguring, permanent alopecia.

300. Defendants had sole access to material facts concerning the defective nature of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate and their propensity to cause serious and dangerous side effects, and therefore cause damage to persons who used the drugs at issue, including Plaintiffs, in particular.

301. Defendants' concealment and omissions of material fact concerning the safety of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were made purposefully, wilfully, wantonly, and/or recklessly to mislead Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers into reliance on the continued use of the drugs and to cause them to purchase, prescribe, and/or dispense Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate and/or use them.

302. Defendants knew that Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers had no way to determine the truth behind Defendants' concealment and omissions, including the material omissions of fact surrounding Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate set forth herein.

303. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers reasonably relied on information revealed by Defendants that negligently, fraudulently, and/or purposefully did not include facts that were concealed and/or omitted by Defendants.

304. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and

past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

**SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Fraud and Deceit – Against All Defendants)**

305. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

306. Defendants committed fraud by omission in applying for and gaining patent protection for Taxotere resulting in increased sales and market penetration. This increased market penetration was the proximate cause of Plaintiffs' exposure to the side effects of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez.

307. Defendants fraudulently claimed superior efficacy over other products designed to treat the same conditions for which Taxotere was designed to treat. These fraudulent representations were the proximate cause of Plaintiffs' exposure to the side effects of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez.

308. As a result of Defendants' research and testing, or lack thereof, Defendants intentionally distributed false information, including, but not limited to, assuring Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers and/or the public that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate was safe and effective for use in the treatment of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer.

309. As a result of Defendants' research and testing, or lack thereof, Defendants intentionally omitted certain results of testing and or research to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, healthcare professionals, and/or the public.

310. Defendants had a duty when disseminating information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public to disseminate truthful information.

311. Defendants had a duty when disseminating information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs'

healthcare providers, and the public not to deceive Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and/or the public.

312. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public, including, but not limited to, reports, press releases, advertising campaigns, and other forms of media contained material misrepresentations of fact and/or omissions.

313. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Defendants' drug Taxotere was safe and effective for the treatment of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer.

314. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Defendants' drug Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate carried the same risks, hazards, and/or dangers as other forms of treatment for the same conditions for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

315. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Taxotere was not injurious to the health and/or safety of its intended users.

316. The information Defendants distributed to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public intentionally included false representations that Taxotere was no more injurious to the health and/or safety of its intended users as other forms of cancer treatments for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

317. These representations by Defendants were all false and misleading.

318. Defendants intentionally suppressed, ignored, and disregarded test results not favorable to Defendants and that demonstrated Taxotere was not safe as a means of treatment for certain types of cancer for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

319. Defendants intentionally made material misrepresentations to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs'

healthcare providers, and the public in general, including the medical profession, regarding the safety of Taxotere, specifically, but not limited to, Taxotere not having dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns.

320. Defendants intentionally made material misrepresentations to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public in general, including the medical profession, regarding the safety of Taxotere, specifically, but not limited to, Taxotere being as safe as other products designed to treat the same conditions Taxotere was designed to treat.

321. It was Defendants' intent and purpose in making these false representations to deceive and defraud Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and/or the public and to gain the confidence of Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and/or healthcare professionals to falsely ensure the quality and fitness for use of Taxotere and induce Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, and the public, including the medical profession, to purchase, request, dispense, prescribe, recommend, and/or continue to use Taxotere.

322. Defendants made the aforementioned false claims and false representations with the intent of convincing Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and/or healthcare professionals that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate was fit and safe for use as treatment for certain types of cancer, including breast cancer.

323. Defendants made the aforementioned false claims and false representations with the intent of convincing Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and/or healthcare professionals that Taxotere was fit and safe for use as treatment for certain forms of cancer and did not pose risks, dangers, or hazards above and beyond those identified and/or associated with other forms of treatment for which Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate was designed to treat.

324. Defendants made false claims and false representations in its documents submitted to



Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and healthcare professionals that Taxotere did not present risks related to disfigurement secondary to permanent alopecia.

325. Defendants made false claims and false representations in its documents submitted to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, the public, and healthcare professionals that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, or Docetaxel Injection Concentrate did not present health and/or safety risks greater than other forms of treatment for the same conditions Taxotere was designed to treat.

326. Defendants made these and other representations with a pretense of actual knowledge when Defendants had no knowledge of the truth or falsity of these representations, and Defendants made these representations recklessly and without regard to the actual facts.

327. Defendants made these and other representations with the intention of deceiving and defrauding Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers.

328. Defendants made these and other representations in order to induce Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers to rely upon the misrepresentations.

329. Defendants' false misrepresentations caused Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' healthcare providers to purchase, use, rely on, request, dispense, recommend, and/or prescribe Taxotere.

330. Defendants recklessly and intentionally falsely represented the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere to the public at large, and Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers in particular, for the purpose of influencing the marketing of a product Defendants knew was dangerous and defective and/or not as safe as other alternatives, including other forms of treatment for cancer.

331. Defendants wilfully and intentionally failed to disclose, concealed, and/or suppressed the material facts regarding the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns related to Taxotere.

332. Defendants wilfully and intentionally failed to disclose the truth and material facts

related to Taxotere and made false representations with the purpose and design of deceiving and lulling Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers into a sense of security so that Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers would rely on Defendants' representations to purchase, use, dispense, prescribe, and/or recommend Taxotere.

333. Defendants, through their public relations efforts, which included, but were not limited to, public statements and press releases, knew or should have known that the public, including Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers, would rely upon the information being disseminated.

334. Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' healthcare providers did in fact rely on and believe Defendants' false representations to be true at the time they were made, and they relied upon Defendants' false representations and superior knowledge of how Taxotere would treat certain forms of cancer for which Taxotere was designed to treat.

335. At the time Defendants' false representations were made, Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' healthcare providers did not know the truth and were not with reasonable diligence able to discover the truth with regard to the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez.

336. Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers did not discover the true facts with respect to Defendants' false representations and the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez, and Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers with reasonable diligence could not have discovered the true facts.

337. Had Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers known the true facts with respect to the dangerous and serious health and/or safety concerns of Taxotere, Docetaxel Injection, Docetaxel Injection Concentrate, or Docefrez, Plaintiffs would not have purchased, used, and/or relied on Defendants' drug Taxotere.

338. Defendants' aforementioned conduct constitutes fraud and deceit, and it was

committed and/or perpetrated wilfully, wantonly, and/or purposefully on Plaintiffs.

339. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counselling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

#### **EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **(Breach of Express Warranty – Against Sanofi-Related Entities Only)**

340. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this Third Amended Master Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further allege as follows.

341. Defendants expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' healthcare providers that Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate were safe and fit for use for the purposes intended, that they did not produce any dangerous side effects in excess of those risks associated with other forms of treatment for cancer, that the side effects they did produce were accurately reflected in the warnings, and that they was adequately tested.

342. These express warranties became part of the basis of the bargain Defendants made with Plaintiffs.

343. Plaintiffs and their healthcare providers relied on Defendants' express warranties in electing to purchase and use their product.

344. Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate do not conform to Defendants' express warranties, because is the drugs are not safe, were not adequately

tested, and have numerous serious side effects, which are in excess of those risks associated with other forms of treatment and which were not accurately warned about by Defendants.

345. Members of the medical community, including physicians and other healthcare providers, relied upon the representations and warranties of Defendants for use of Taxotere, Docefrez, Docetaxel Injection, and Docetaxel Injection Concentrate in recommending, prescribing, and/or dispensing the drugs at issue.

346. Defendants knew or should have known that, in fact, their representations and warranties were false, misleading, and untrue.

347. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing breaches of warranty, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to suffer serious and dangerous side effects, severe and personal injuries that are permanent and lasting in nature, and economic and non-economic damages, harms, and losses, including, but not limited to: past and future medical expenses; psychological counseling and therapy expenses; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss and impairment of earning capacity; permanent disfigurement, including permanent alopecia; mental anguish; severe and debilitating emotional distress; increased risk of future harm; past, present, and future physical and mental pain, suffering, and discomfort; and past, present, and future loss and impairment of the quality and enjoyment of life.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

348. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief and judgement against each of the Defendants as appropriate to each cause of action alleged, as follows: compensatory damages and general damages in an amount that will conform to proof at time trial; special damages in an amount within the jurisdiction of this Court and according to proof at the time of trial; loss of earnings and impaired earning capacity according to proof at the time of trial; medical expenses, past and future, according to proof at the time of trial; for past and future mental and emotional distress, according to proof;

damages for loss of care, comfort, society, and companionship in an amount within the jurisdiction of this Court and according to proof; for punitive or exemplary damages according to proof; restitution, disgorgement of profits, and other equitable relief; attorneys' fees; for costs of suit incurred herein; for pre- and post-judgment interest as provided by law; and for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

349. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: October 8, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher L. Coffin

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 8, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court by using the CM/ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record who are CM/ECF participants.

/s/ M. Palmer Lambert  
M. PALMER LAMBERT